

Standard information for all hikes is as follows: Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Click [here](#) for map/UTM coordinates: (trail meeting location)

We adjust/tweak examples: bird walks have binoculars, full moon has flashlights & black lights, shorter walks have 1-liter water, dogs permitted or not, etc.

Andreas Canyon Trail (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 9/1/2026)

Explore this 1.0-mile loop trail in historic Indian Canyons. You will pass some great picnic areas as you hike along Andreas Creek. We begin the hike at Andreas Creek near the grinding stone. Keep your eyes out for the interesting red rock formations above the oasis-like vegetation on your right during the first half of the trail. We will loop up to a desert-like terrain overlooking Andreas Creek. Stay alert for friendly and unfriendly critters. The trail is considered easy and elevation gain of 175 feet. Bring your picnic lunch as we will return by way of the picnic tables and restrooms. Bring 2 liters of water and snacks. Wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are optional. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates for directions to trailhead location: **PLEASE NOTE:** There is an entry fee for this hike. Sorry no dogs are allowed on tribal lands. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.760904, -116.549518

ADDRESS: 38520 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Anniversary 25th SRSJNM hike - Snow Creek Wash (approved CVMSHCP) Updated 9/12/2025

Come out to celebrate the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument 25th anniversary with a special hike lead by the Monument Manager. Join us for a hike on the spectacular Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and learn about some of the epic resources unique to the Monument! This is a moderate hike through desert wash, 300-foot elevation gain, 5-miles round trip. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water, snack, sun protection. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: Note: Meet at Pacific Crest Trail, about a mile south on Snow Creek Road off Highway 111 west of Windy Point near the Interstate 10 and Highway 111 intersection. Do Not enter the private residential area. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time.

UTM's: [33.89374, -116.68297](#)

ADDRESS: Snow Creek Canyon Road and Highway 111, Whitewater, CA 92282 USA

Araby Trail (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 9/12/2025)

J. Smeaton Chase, an Englishman is credited with naming the Araby Trail. The hike begins with a continuous switchback ascent uphill. The trail climbs to the ridge, you will see historic homes and mansions. Great views of Palm Springs and the surrounding area may be seen. As the trail continues uphill, it gets steep in some places and offers great views of the mountains, Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. Elevation is about 850 feet. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water and snacks. Wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are suggested. RSVP is required. Check-in is 15 minutes prior to start time. Note: We will meet at the trailhead located off Highway 111 at Rim Road (Southridge Dr). View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations**

begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. *Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.*

UTM's: 33.79735, -116.51042

ADDRESS: Highway 111 at Rim Road, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Art Smith Trail (approved CVMSHCP) (seasonal closure 6/1 thru 9/30 from HCT to Dunn) (Updated 9/12/2025)

Join a guided hike through the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument! You will have excellent views of the Coachella Valley and learn some of the local history. You will see many unique desert plants and learn how they survive the long hot summers. There are lizards and animals on the trail including a chance to see the endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep with one of their newborn lambs. The trail is about 2 feet wide with some cobble. The distance may be 3-4 miles with elevation gain of 500 to 950 feet. This hike is considered strenuous as there are a few steep inclines. Sorry, no dogs allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are suggested. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: NOTE: We will meet at the Art Smith Trailhead parking lot located just past the driveway for the Visitor Center approximately 100 feet on the southwest side of Highway 74. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.667957, -116.407666

ADDRESS: Art Smith Trailhead Parking Lot, Highway 74, Roy Wilson Memorial Highway, Palm Desert, CA 92260

(Select the location you will be using)

Note for Jan-Feb-Mar hikes: We will meet in the Randall Henderson Trailhead parking area at the Visitor Center. Click here for map/UTM's coordinates: 33.670193, -116.406895

Bear Creek Wash Trail Hike (approved CVMSHCP) (Steve Hynes) Updated 9/9/2025

Join us for this interpretative hike up the Bear Creek Wash. This hike is rated as easy with 4 miles round-trip and an elevation gain of approximately 325 feet. The trail winds through a sandy wash with uneven terrain. As the wash narrows there will be some rocks and small boulders to hike around and step over. Along the way, we will discuss the plants that populate the desert wash; how these plants have adapted to these extreme environmental conditions; how the Cahuilla people used these native plants to survive for thousands of years; and the geologic forces that formed these mountains and canyons. During the hike we will have outstanding views of La Quinta Cove and the Santa Rosa Mountains. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen. Sorry, no dogs allowed on this trail. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Note: we will meet at the Cove Oasis Trailhead parking lot. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.64875, -116.31708

ADDRESS: Cove Oasis Trailhead Parking Lot, Calle Tecate and Avenida Juarez, La Quinta, CA 92253 USA

Big Split Rock Canyon Loop (see Mecca Aster Trail)

Birding Walk-About, Demuth Park (Updated 9/12/2025)

Join a Friends' volunteer docent birding expert to look for our feathered desert residents. Demuth Park is a rare location that provides terrific birding opportunities as it is a park with lots of trees, water, and a paved walkway. A great place to see a good variety, approximately 25 species, of birds from migrating warblers to water fowl. Come spend a little time on your morning walk through the park looking at beautiful mountain vistas, watching the birds and enjoying the sunshine. Sorry, no dogs are allowed for this event. Bring your binoculars, 1 liter of water, a sun hat, sunscreen and wear close-toed shoes. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: Note: We will meet in the last parking lot near the Community Center. Located at Mesquite Avenue and Nueva Vista Drive. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.

UTM's: [33.808259, -116.505915](#)

ADDRESS: 3601 E Mesquite Ave, Palm Springs, CA 92264 USA

Birding Walk-About, Desert Willow (Updated 9/12/2025)

Grab your binoculars and join a Friends' volunteer docent birding expert to look for our feathered desert residents. In this unique urban area, we are still able to find a little native desert environment surrounded by local trees and shrubs that many of our feathered friends call home. As you walk the perimeter of an open desert property adjacent to the golf course, you will find approximately 25-30 different species on your 1-mile walk-about. This is truly a "jewel in the desert" location to be enjoyed. Sorry, no dogs allowed for this event. Bring your binoculars, 1 liter of water, a sun hat, sunscreen and wear close-toed shoes. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: **Note:** We will meet in the parking lot on the right side of Desert Willow Drive just before entering the golf club. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.76560, -116.36554

ADDRESS: 38995 Desert Willow Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260 USA

Birding Walk-About at the Monument Visitor Center (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 9/9/2025)

Our experienced Friends' birding volunteer docent will share interesting facts about the Coachella Valley native species and other migratory birds found in the National Monument. We begin the search for our feathered friends in their native desert habitat at the new observation area. Then onto the Ed Hastey Garden Walk (paved) and tortoise habitat areas. From the parking area, we will take a short walk on the Randall Henderson Trail to check out the lower sandy wash area where other birds may be found. Total walking distance about 1.0 mile. Bring your binoculars, 1 liter of water, sun hat, sunscreen, and camera. Sorry no dogs are allowed for this event. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.67149, -116.40839](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA USA

Boo Hoff Interpretative Trail Hike (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 9/1/2026)

Join Friends' volunteer docent for this interpretive hike on the Boo Hoof trail which follows an ancient Cahuilla pathway passing along canyons and ridges. We will do a moderate version of the trail. We begin hiking through sandy desert wash for nearly 2 miles and then at the trailhead, climb about 500' elevation and return the same route. We will pass side canyons and washes common to the Santa Rosa Mountains and savor scenic views of the Santa Rosa Wilderness and La Quinta while reveling in the peace and quiet of the remote sanctuary. We will point out and discuss plants that thrive in this environment, how the Cahuilla people survived using these plants, as well as the geology and water of the Santa Rosa Mountains. We will hike about 8 miles round trip, out and back. We will be in Bighorn Sheep territory! Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen. Sorry, no dogs allowed on this trail. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates for directions to trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.648969, -116.309324

ADDRESS: La Quinta Cove Trails Parking Lot, Calle Tecate & Avenida Bermudas, La Quinta, CA 92253

Cactus Springs Trail to Horsethief Creek (approved CVMSHCP) Whitewater, CA 92282

During 2021, this area was ravaged by a wildfire. Friends' volunteer docents will discuss fire ecology and how flora and fauna are reclaiming this area. The forested area was important to the Cahuilla people who lived off the land and more recently played a role in the mining history of the National Monument's land. This unique hiking opportunity offers a 5-mile out and back hike to Horsethief Creek. This moderate to strenuous hike follows an ancient Cahuilla path from the mountains to the desert floor. The return trip from the creek is all uphill and involves an elevation gain of 1230 feet. Participants must be comfortable with the physical demands required for this hike. Sorry no dogs are allowed for this event. Bring a minimum of 2 liters of water, a sun hat, sunscreen and wear close-toed hiking boots. Hiking poles are suggested. Note: We will meet in the Sawmill Trail parking lot. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.57995, -116.45056](#)

ADDRESS: Pinon Flats Transfer Station Road, Mountain Center, CA 92561 USA

Cahuilla Tewanet Overlook (interpretative site)

Sharen's - We begin at the Cahuilla Tewanet Overlook for a short interpretive walk in the Upper Sonoran life zone. You will enjoy the beautiful vistas as you learn about Cahuilla life and their usage of plants. Extend your journey as we travel up Highway 74 to the northern crossing of the Pacific Crest Trail. A short hike in this Transition Zone helps you to compare plant and animal life here, to that in the other life zones. If time permits, you can enjoy an optional lunch at the nearby Paradise Cafe or Sugarloaf Cafe. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring 1 liter of water, a sun hat, sunscreen and wear close-toed shoes. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.58597, -116.42604](#)

Susan's – The Overlook is dedicated to Cahuilla People. The Cahuilla were hunter/gatherers who lived off the land. They found many uses for the various plants, especially spring wildflowers. How has current climate changes affected the area? Fire ecology and more. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring 1 liter of water, a sun hat, sunscreen and wear close-toed shoes. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: 33.58597, -116.42604

Carrizo Canyon, Opening Day (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 9/12/2025)

The Carrizo Canyon Ecological Preserve opens for the season on October 1st. This docent led hike takes you into a canyon that provides a chance to see the endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and other desert critters, learn about the geology of the area and a great outdoor experience close to downtown Palm Desert. This trail is in a sandy wash with uneven terrain. As the canyon narrows there will be some rocks and small boulders to hike around and step over. Hike rating is easy, approximately 3 miles round trip. Elevation gain is approximately 300 feet. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring snacks and 2 liters of water per person. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: Note: We will meet at the Art Smith Trailhead parking lot located just past the driveway for the Visitor Center approximately 100 feet on the southwest side of Highway 74. *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.* A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.66797, -116.40766](#)

ADDRESS: Art Smith Trailhead Parking Lot, Highway 74, Roy Wilson Memorial Hwy, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Carrizo Canyon (approved CVMSHCP) updated 9/8/2025

Carrizo Canyon is open October through December and provides wonderful opportunities to see the endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and many other desert critters. You will learn about the geology of the area and a great outdoor experience close to downtown Palm Desert. This trail is in a sandy wash with uneven terrain. As the canyon narrows there will be some rocks and small boulders to hike around and step over. Hike rating is easy, approximately 3 miles round trip. Elevation gain is approximately 350 feet. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring snacks and 2 liters of water per person. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Please note: We will meet at the Art Smith Trailhead parking lot located just past the driveway for the Visitor Center approximately 100 feet on the southwest side of Highway 74. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.* A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.66797, -116.40766](#)

ADDRESS: Art Smith Trailhead Parking Lot, Highway 74, Roy Wilson Memorial Hwy, Palm Desert, CA 92260, USA

Cathedral Canyon Trail to Dunn Rd Interpretative Hike (approved CVMSHCP)

Join us for this strenuous hike along Cathedral Canyon Trail. This distance is 5.7 miles with an elevation gain of over 1,100 feet. The hike begins in Cathedral Canyon Cove and climbs steeply up a series of switchbacks where we will have outstanding views of Cathedral City and the and the mountains of the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto National Monument. We will discuss the many unique desert plants along the trail and how they have adapted to changing environmental

conditions. We will also share some local history and talk about the Dunn Road – the manmade intrusion that scarred these National Monument lands and damaged critical habitat of the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep. It is highly recommended that you wear hiking shoes or hiking boots. Sneakers WILL NOT provide sufficient traction navigating the steep switchbacks and hills. Bring 3 liters of water, snacks, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: 33.76020, -116.47814

Cedar Springs Trail *(needs BLM approval) (not in CVMSHCP boundary)*

The 4-mile drive along Morris Ranch Road off Highway 74 offers some wonderful views of Garner Valley before finding parking along the side of the road with a short walk to the trail head. This easy trail, begins at 5,760-foot elevation, leads up through some meadows, before coming to a forested area filled with mature oaks. We will walk about 2 miles to the beginning of the switchbacks. This will be the turn-around location before heading back for a total of 4 miles. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.653020, -116.589656](#)

Chuckwalla Trail *(needs BLM approval) (not in CVMSHCP boundary) (Updated 12/14/2025)*

This trail meanders through the rolling foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains above the City of Rancho Mirage and Cathedral Canyon. You may see a few wildflowers along the trail. There are many other unique desert plants. You will learn about their adaptations to the desert and summertime survival techniques. Our volunteer docents will share information about the National Monument and some local history. The distance is 3 miles on a 2 feet wide trail with cobble desert terrain and an elevation gain of 400 feet. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are optional. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: NOTE: We will be meeting in the upper parking lot of Rancho Mirage City Hall parking lot. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.771071, -116.448379

ADDRESS: Rancho Mirage City Hall, 69825 CA-111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Cottonwood Canyon Trail Hike *(unofficial name, see the listing under PCT below)*

Dead Indian Canyon *(approved CVMSHCP) updated 9/8/2025*

Dead Indian canyon is only open from October through December and provides wonderful opportunities to see the endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and many other desert critters. You will learn about the geology of the area and a great outdoor experience close to downtown Palm Desert. This trail traverses a sandy wash with uneven terrain with cobble (small rocks). Hike rating is easy, approximately 2 miles round trip. Elevation gain is approximately 250 feet. Sorry

no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring snacks and 1 liter of water per person. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: Note: We will meet at the Art Smith Trailhead parking lot located just past the driveway for the Visitor Center approximately 100 feet on the southwest side of Highway 74. *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.* A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.66797, -116.40766](#)

ADDRESS: Art Smith Trailhead Parking Lot, Highway 74, Roy Wilson Memorial Hwy, Palm Desert, CA 92260, USA

Cove to Lake Overlook Interpretive Hike (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 9/1/2026)

Join Friends' volunteer docent for this interpretative hike to the Morrow Trail Overlook to Lake Cahuilla. This is an easy hike through loose sand and established pathways. We begin with a gradual incline, dip into a wash and then gradually climb and descend, ups and downs, along a rocky path to an overlook of manmade Lake Cahuilla. Along the way we will discuss Coachella Valley water supply and conservation, including native plants and their adaptation to our water capacity. This is an out and back trail about 5.0 to 6.0 miles. Approximate elevation is 850 feet. Sorry, no dogs allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water and snacks. Wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are optional. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates for directions to trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.648969, -116.309324

ADDRESS: La Quinta Cove Trails Parking Lot, Calle Tecate & Avenida Bermudas, La Quinta, CA 92253

Eagle Canyon Trail (approved CVMSHCP)

CANNOT DO THIS TRAIL AS WE DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO CROSS THE PRIVATE PROPERTY TO THE TRAILHEAD.

Earl Henderson Trail (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 9/12/2025)

Enjoy this easy hike along the hillside above Araby Wash. Explore the wonders of this critical habitat area to learn about the endangered Casey's June Beetle and fire ecology in this sensitive habitat area. On our return loop, we will wander down into the wash to check out a few desert plants. This is an easy hiking trail. Distance will be about 3 miles. Elevation gain of 100 feet. Sorry, no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. **Note: We will meet at the trailhead located off Bogert Trail at Barona Road.** View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

(Select the location you will be using)

UTM's: [33.77621, -116.53132](#)

ADDRESS: Garstin Trailhead, Bogert Trail at Barona Road, Palm Springs, CA 92264

UTM's: 33.794641, -116.514338

Note: We will meet at the trailhead located in the wash on South Araby Drive parking lot.

ADDRESS: South Araby Drive in Araby Wash, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Earth Day Birding Bus Tour (Updated 9/12/2026)

Whether you are a beginner or a serious birder, enjoy spectacular desert and mountain scenery on a guided bus tour to well-known birding and nature hotspots in and around the Coachella Valley. Water and snacks will be provided. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy at one of our stops along the way. Before the day is over, we hope to identify 100 different bird species, have lots of fun, and raise money for conservation. Bring binoculars, water, a hat, sunscreen. Please wear close-toed shoes. Led by Kurt Leuschner, Professor of Natural Resources, College of the Desert. Fee: \$80 per person. RSVP required by **Friday, April 10**. **Cancellation policy: notice must be received prior to April 10 for ticket refund.** Meet at 6:45AM for an on-time 7:00AM departure. For more information call 760-568-9918.

NOTE: Areas to be visited are Morongo Preserve, Whitewater Preserve, The Wild Bird Center in Indio and Salton Sea.

MEETING LOCATION: Sam's Club Parking Lot, 34220 Monterey Ave, Palm Desert, CA 92211

UTM's: 33.80072, -116.38642

Ed Haste Garden Walk (approved CVMSHCP) (no donation request allowed)

Enjoy strolling the Ed Haste Garden Walk led by Friends' volunteer docent. It is a great introduction to learn about native plants and animals that inhabit our desert, and the value of urban conservation. This short, easy walk is suitable for persons of all ages and abilities with a paved 3-foot-wide path. All topics are open for conversation such as climate change, ancestors of the Cahuilla, geology, and early history of the foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains. Sorry, no dogs are allowed on this trail. Recommend one 1 liter of water per person, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs.

Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.

UTMs: [33.67149, -116.40839](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Roy Wilson Memorial Highway, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Ernie Maxwell Trail (San Bernardino National Monument)

This is a moderate hiking trail with elevation beginning at 5,720 feet with a 700-foot elevation gain. Starting at Tahquitz View Drive in Idyllwild, the trail ascends for 2.6 miles crossing seasonal trails mostly shaded by beautiful trees of different species, a botanist's delight! Along the way there are scenic views of the surrounding mountain peaks. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring 2 liters of water, a sun hat, sunscreen and wear close-toed shoes. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. We will meet at the lower end of the trail on Tahquitz View Drive. Click here for map/UTM coordinates:

[33.740200, -116.702479](#)

OR (Select the location you will be using)

We will meet at the upper end trail in Humber Park near the Ernie Maxwell trail sign – Adventure Pass is required for parking. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.764598, -116.687058](#)

Foothill Trail in the Cove **THIS IS NOT AN APPROVED TRAIL- Consider doing Bear Creek Canyon Trail OR Boo Hoff Trail**

Frank Bogert Trail (unofficial name, see the listing under Theilman Trail below)

Garstin Trail (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 9/12/2025)

Join our Friends' volunteer docent hiking the Garstin trail and getting your daily outdoor exercise. Learn the importance of this critical habitat area for the endangered Casey's June Beetle and other tidbits about Palm Springs history and the National Monument. Hike rating is moderate. Elevation gain is approximately 800 feet and 3 miles roundtrip. Sorry, no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are suggested. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Note: We will meet at the trailhead located off Bogert Trail at Barona Road. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.77621, -116.53132](#)

ADDRESS: Garstin Trailhead, Bogert Trail at Barona Road, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Gold Hill and Golden Crown Mine Trail (Jack Shack 2) updated 9/8/2025

(needs BLM approval) (not in CVMSHCP boundary)

We begin at the location of the town known as Kenworthy. Using the old mining road, we will trek to the mine ruins. We will discuss some Cahuilla culture and colorful early pioneer settlers. Can you name a few significant events from the mid-20th century to today that have shaped Garner Valley? This 6.0-mile hike is rated moderately strenuous with an elevation gain of 600 feet. No dogs for this event. Bring your camera, wildflower books, picnic lunch, 2 liters of water per person. Wear closed toed hiking boots, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: *For more information, contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center at 760-862-9984.* A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.606111, -116.604221

ADDRESS: Gold Hill Trail, Table Mountain Rd and Pathfinder Rd, Mountain Center, CA 92561

Herb Jeffries Trail (approved CVMSHCP)

Celebrate Black history month hiking the Herb Jeffries Trail. This urban trail begins on a narrow, uneven, uphill climb and intersects with the Bump-n-Grind. We will loop back on the Hopalong Cassidy Trail. Elevation gain is 650 feet, approximately 2 miles roundtrip. Sorry, no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. We will meet at Cahuilla Hills Park. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.714298, -116.400529](#)

Hidden Palms Oasis Trail (Coachella Valley Preserve/Thousand Palms Preserve) (Updated 12/16/2025)

During the springtime this wash area usually has abundant wildflowers. You leave the wash and climb the mud hill. ~~to Bee Rock Mesa. From Bee Rock Mesa~~ at the top it opens to a ~~you have a~~ spectacular view of Salton Sea. The trail is flat until you reach the ravine and hike down into the oasis. Along the way you will find many blooming shrubs. You will enter the oasis to enjoy the many California fan palms and wildlife habitat. You will exit Hidden Palm oasis and follow the sandy wash towards Horseshoe oasis. The trail leads up a steep incline and loops back to the trail. The distance is

3.0 miles with an elevation gain of 400-feet. Sorry, no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are optional. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: NOTE: We will meet at the Pushwalla Trail on Thousand Palms Canyon Road. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.835341, -116.306906

ADDRESS: Hidden Palms Trail/Pushwalla Palms Trailhead, Thousand Palms Canyon Road, Thousand Palms, CA 92276

Indio Hills Badlands Trail (BLM land, non-Monuments)

This trail offers a spectacular loop through a classic badland topography formed by thousands of years of erosion and an active San Andreas Fault. You will hike through slot canyons, in the shadow of tectonic up-tilts, sandy washes, switchbacks, a short but steep incline and along a prominent ridge with a 360-degree view of the Salton Sea to San Geronio Mountain. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. The distance is 5.5 miles with an elevation gain of 650 feet. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends at 760-568-9918. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: 33.744235, -116.199386

ADDRESS: Indio Hills Badlands Trailhead, 42000 Golf Center Pkwy, Indio, CA, 92203

Indio Hills Badlands Full Moon Hike (BLM Non-Monument)

Strap on your hiking boots for a full moon hike on the first mile of the Indio Badlands Trail. As we embark on this hike, the moonlight casts enchanting shadows on the desert terrain. The sky will be brilliantly lit up for the desert creatures to be scurrying about. This family-friendly adventure offers a manageable 2-mile out and back hike with minimal elevation gain. Bring your hiking poles for stability getting up to the ridge, and, of course, 1-2 liters of water for each family member. The astronomers will set up their telescopes for star gazing, adding an extra layer of magic to your night experience in the desert. RSVP is required. Check-in 15 minutes prior to your group's departure time. VIEW MAP at UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact the Friends of the Desert Mountains at 760-568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 1 week prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.744235, -116.199386](#)

Address: Indio Hills Badlands Trailhead, 42000 Golf Center Parkway, Indio, CA 92203 USA

Excursión bajo la luna llena en el sendero Indio Hills

Póngase las botas de montaña para una caminata bajo la luna llena en el sendero Indio Hills. Mientras nos embarcamos en esta caminata, la luz de la luna proyecta sombras encantadoras sobre el terreno desértico. El cielo estará brillantemente iluminado para que las criaturas del desierto puedan corretear. Esta aventura familiar ofrece una caminata manejable de 2 millas ida y vuelta con un desnivel mínimo. Traiga sus bastones de senderismo para tener estabilidad al subir a la cresta y, por supuesto, mucha agua para cada miembro de la familia. Los astrónomos instalarán sus telescopios para observar las estrellas, añadiendo un toque extra de magia a su experiencia nocturna en el desierto. **Se requiere confirmación. Regístrese 15 minutos antes de la hora de salida. Haga clic aquí para ver el mapa/coordenadas UTM:** Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Friends al 760-568-9918. Se agradece y sugiere una donación no reembolsable de \$10.00 por persona para apoyar nuestros programas voluntariados. **Las reservas de boletos comienzan una semana antes del evento y se publicará en ese momento. Su donación opcional no**

reembolsable no es un boleto para asistir.

McManus Trail (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 1/8/2026)

A 3 mile out-and-back trail near Cathedral City. This is a popular trail to the Goat Trails area, but you can still enjoy some solitude during a quieter time of the day. Trail is moderately difficult. Sorry, no dogs allowed. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are suggested as trail can be uneven. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: Please note: we will meet at the gate on The Ramp/Goat Trails, Palm Hills Drive, Palm Springs (adjacent to the Von's Rimrock Shopping Center. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.790410, -116.492232

ADDRESS: Palm Hills Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Kim Nicol Trail Hike (BLM land, non-Monument) (Updated 12/16/2025)

The trail is named for Kim Nicol, who dedicated her life to protecting endangered species and open spaces in Coachella Valley. The trail is located in the Indio Hills on an active sand dune and home to several endangered species. We will be hiking approximately 3.0+ miles of the loop trail with elevation of 500 feet. Sorry, no dogs allowed for this event. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: NOTE: We will be meeting at the Kim Nicol Trail parking lot located on Corkhill Road, Desert Hot Springs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.90392, -116.43985

ADDRESS: Corkhill Road, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

La Quinta Cove Full Moon Hike (Bear Creek Wash approved CVMSHCP) updated 9/16/2025

Experience a hike by moonlight! See the beauty of the shadows and wash of moonlight over our mountains. We will be looking for all types of night creatures along the trail. Our astronomers will have their telescope set-up to view the night sky. This is a family friendly easy 2.25-mile loop hike with 150 feet elevation gain. The trail is 6 feet wide at the beginning and narrows to 2 feet wide with cobbled, uneven desert terrain. Sorry, no dogs allowed on this trail. Bring 1 liter of water per person, headlamp or flashlight and wear closed-toed shoes. RSVP IS REQUIRED. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to your group's departure time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 1 week prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.648969, -116.309324](#)

ADDRESS: Cove to Lake Trailhead, Calle Tecate, La Quinta, CA 92253 USA

La Quinta Cove Night Sky Star Observations updated 9/8/2025

Friends of the Desert Mountains volunteer astronomers will be setting up their telescopes and are inviting you to their "star party". A clear night sky offers an ever-changing display of fascinating objects to see — stars, constellations, bright

planets, a full moon, and sometimes special events like meteor showers or an eclipse. While observing the night sky, occasionally we might see the international space station moving over the Coachella Valley. **NOTE: CHECK WEATHER BEFORE DEPARTING, THIS EVENT WILL BE CANCELED FOR HEAVY CLOUD COVER, WIND OR RAIN.** View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 1 week prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.648969](#), [-116.309324](#)

ADDRESS: Cove to Lake Trailhead, Calle Tecate, La Quinta, CA 92253 USA

Long Canyon Hike (*Sand to Snow Monument*) updated 11/26/2025

This is the newest trail to open in the Coachella Valley. The first mile of the trail is in the Sand to Snow Monument. Beginning at mile two of the trail you will be in Joshua Tree National Park. We will explore the area and learn about the Metropolitan Water District and how water is transported to the Los Angeles area. As we enter the wilderness area, we will discuss how the low desert plants have adapted to the higher elevation. This trail is mostly level with gradual elevation gain. Hike rating is easy. We will hike approximately 2 miles and turn back. Sorry, no dogs allowed in Joshua Tree National Park. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. **Note:** we will meet at the Long Canyon Trailhead parking area in Desert Hot Springs. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.962520, -116.443808

ADDRESS: Long Canyon Road, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

Martinez Slide (*not approved trail for CVMSHCP - destination*)

May be used as a volunteer only training hike OR for community science projects

Mecca Aster Canyon Hike (*BLM, Chuckwalla Monument*)

Join us for a hike in the Chuckwalla National Monument. **This is a brand-new hike never offered by Friends.** On this hike we will walk through a wash full of amazing geology with colors that you will not see elsewhere. We will explore an impressive slot canyon with walls towering over our head and then return to the main canyon to continue exploring. With some luck, we will see some Mecca asters. This hike is classified as easy with a distance of 3.0 miles and an elevation gain of over 300 feet. Bring 2 liters of water, a snack to enjoy, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. **RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time.** Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested nonrefundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends at 760-568-9918. **NOTE:** Each person must sign up individually and acknowledge our waiver form. We will meet at the intersection of Box Canyon Rd and Painted Canyon Rd and caravan to the trailhead. View map/UTM coordinates: 33.575860, -115.996090

ADDRESS: We will meet at the intersection of Box Canyon Rd and Painted Canyon Rd intersection and caravan to the trailhead.

Mission Creek Preserve Trail (*Sand to Snow Monument*)

Grab your hiking poles and join a Friends' volunteer docent for the Mission Creek Preserve trail. This trail is in the Sand to Snow National Monument created in 2015. We will trek along a riparian area and anticipate seeing an area lush with spring wildflowers. Along the way you may see wonderful views of San Jacinto Mountain and San Geronio Mountain. You will learn early 20th century history of ranching and tourism in the area. This 3.5-mile hike is rated easy with an elevation gain of 125 feet. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring your camera, wildflower books, picnic lunch, 2 liters of water per person. Wear closed toed hiking boots, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information call: 760-568-9918. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [34.000769, -116.612462](#)

ADDRESS: Mission Creek Trailhead parking lot, 61598-61548 Mission Creek Rd, Whitewater, CA 92282

Monument Night Adventures (approved CVMSHCP)

Discover how the desert comes alive after dark! Do you know which animals change colors when you use a blacklight? Using blacklights, a Friends' volunteer docent will begin a short walk on uneven cobbled desert terrain in the basin below the dike/levy looking for scorpions and other nocturnal creatures that inhabit our desert. This is a family friendly event. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Bring water, wear closed-toed shoes and a black light if you have one. If not, we will have a few black lights to share. Sorry, no dogs allowed on this trail. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. We will meet at the Art Smith Trailhead parking lot located just past the driveway for the Visitor Center approximately 100 feet on the southwest side of Highway 74. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.66797, -116.40766](#)

Monument Night Adventures Volunteer Training (Advise the correct date/year etc.)

Saturday, May 27 will be our first scheduled Monument Night Adventures for **2023**. I am so looking forward to providing this family friendly event again. There are many of you who have indicated you would like to be part of this Friends' hike team program. Some of you have helped provide this activity in the past. Yet many of you are new to the Friends' volunteer program. To make this event enjoyable for the public, we will be doing training. This training is to help you become familiar and comfortable with your role for the evening and able to assist the public. The training will include: logistics of the area, what the various roles volunteers are needed to do and of course the FAQ's. Blacklights will be provided. We will meet at the Art Smith Trailhead parking lot located just past the driveway for the Visitor Center approximately 100 feet on the southwest side of Highway 74. Click here for map/UTM'S's coordinates: [33.66797, -116.40766](#)

Moon Country Loop Trail Interpretative Hike (Coachella Valley Preserve/Thousand Palms Preserve)

Note: gate is closed on Monday and Tuesday not able to access trail.

We will begin our trek at Coachella Valley Preserve hiking through the oasis along the San Andreas Fault to McCallum Pond. We will do a stopover at the pond before heading up the trail to Moon Country. The area is rich in geology and history. Along the way you may find one of several endangered species. During springtime a wide variety of wildflowers can usually be seen. This 5.0-mile hike is rated easy with an elevation gain of 250 feet. Sorry, no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring your camera, wildflower books, picnic lunch, 2 liters of water per person. Wear closed toed hiking boots, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information call: 760-852-9984. Note: park along Thousand Palms Canyon Road near the closed parking lot for the Preserve. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.838692, -116.307686](#)

Nature Walk at Blixseth Park (needs BLM approval) (not in CVMSHCP boundary) (Updated 12/17/2025)

Join our Friends' volunteer docents for a nature walk in Blixseth Mountain Park. The Park features both native and non-native desert landscape, a wide walking path with benches for observing desert vistas, plants, and mountains. We will share fun facts about desert flora and fauna as well as interesting information about the Native Cahuilla people. This is a leisurely ½ mile wide walking path for persons with limited mobility. There is no elevation gain and little shade. This path is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring 1 liter of water, a sun hat, sunscreen and wear close-toed shoes. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.742715, -116.420995

ADDRESS: Mirage Road, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Nature Walk at Blixseth Park (needs BLM approval) (not in CVMSHCP boundary) (updated January 2025) – used for Susan Forgrave's walk

Join our Friends' volunteer docents for an interactive nature conversation at Blixseth Mountain Park. As we walk along the paths we can talk geology and look for evidence of how both fault systems and water have shaped our land. Perhaps we can sit on one of the benches and discuss how the seeds of the beautiful wildflowers survive years of drought as they wait for the perfect combination of rain and warmth. Maybe we can spot evidence of animals and talk about how some of these critters will survive climate change. Or we can talk about questions or concerns you may have of the extraordinary ecology around us. This is a leisurely ½ mile narrow path for persons with limited mobility, minimal elevation and dog-friendly. Bring 1 liter of water, a sun hat, sunscreen and wear close-toed shoes. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.742715, -116.420995](#)

Night Adventures in the Monument (needs BLM approval)

Discover how the desert comes alive after dark! Do you know which animals change colors when you use a blacklight? Using blacklights, a Friends' volunteer docent will begin a short walk on uneven cobbled desert terrain in the basin below the dike/levy looking for scorpions and other nocturnal creatures that inhabit our desert. This is a family friendly event. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Bring water, wear closed-toed shoes and a black light if you have one. If not, we will have a few black lights to share. Sorry, no dogs allowed on this trail. RSVP is required. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact the Friends of the Desert Mountains at 760-568-9918. We will meet at the Art Smith Trailhead parking lot located just past the driveway for the Visitor Center approximately 100 feet on the southwest side of Highway 74. Click here for map/UTM coordinates:

Night Sky Star Observations in Indio Hills & Vistazo de Estrellas en Indio

- (BLM Non-Monument) updated 9/8/2025

A Friends of the Desert Mountains volunteer astronomer will be setting up a telescope and is inviting you to a "star party." A clear night sky offers an ever-changing display of fascinating objects to see — stars, constellations, bright planets, a full moon, and sometimes special events like meteor showers or an eclipse. While observing the night sky, occasionally we might see the international space station moving over the Coachella Valley. NOTE: CHECK WEATHER BEFORE DEPARTING, THIS EVENT WILL BE CANCELED FOR HEAVY CLOUD COVER, WIND OR RAIN. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact the Friends of the Desert Mountains at 760-

568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs.

Los astrónomos instalarán telescopios y lo invitan a una “fiesta de estrellas”. Un cielo nocturno despejado ofrece una exhibición de objetos fascinantes para ver: estrellas, constelaciones, planetas brillantes, una luna llena y, a veces, eventos especiales como lluvias de meteoritos o un eclipse. Mientras observamos el cielo nocturno, ocasionalmente podemos ver la estación espacial internacional moviéndose sobre el valle de Coachella. Visite en cualquier momento entre las 7:00 PM y las 10:00 PM. NOTA: CONSULTE EL CLIMA ANTES DE SALIR, ESTE EVENTO SE CANCELARÁ SI ESTA NUBLANDO, HAY VIENTO O LLUVIA. **Haga clic aquí para ver el mapa/las coordenadas UTM:** Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Friends of the Desert Mountains al 760-568-9918. Se agradece y sugiere una donación no reembolsable de \$10.00 por persona para apoyar nuestros programas voluntariados.

—NOTES FOR REGISTRATION—NOTAS PARA EL REGISTRO—Ticket reservations begin 1 week prior to the event and will be published at that time. *Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.* Las reservas de boletos comienzan una semana antes del evento y se publicará en ese momento. *Su donación opcional no reembolsable no es un boleto para asistir.*

UTM's: [33.744235, -116.199386](#)

ADDRESS: Indio Hills Badlands Trailhead, 42000 Golf Center Parkway, Indio, CA 92206 USA

Night Sky Viewing Stars and Planets *(needs BLM approval)*

North Lykken Trail *(North Palm Canyon trailhead)* *(Updated 1/15/2026)*

This trail has everything you need in a hike: a good workout, phenomenal views, and wildlife. We will be hiking to the Desert Riders trail junction picnic area and the Simonetta Kennett Vista Point. Take a moment to enjoy the quiet and listen for the calming sound of Tahquitz Canyon Falls. The trail has a few steep switchbacks and is rocky in places with elevation gain about 750 feet to the flat meadow. We will be doing 4.0 miles up-and-back. Sorry no dogs are allowed for this event. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sunhat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are optional. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: NOTE: we will be parking along West Ramon Road and South La Mirada Road. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.815919, -116.555897

ADDRESS: West Ramon Road and South La Mirada Road, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Oswit Canyon Hike *NOT AN APPROVED TRAIL*

Pacific Crest Trail - Cottonwood Canyon *(Sand to Snow Monument)* *(allow 4 hours for this event)*

This is a moderate in-out hike on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). High Clearance vehicles are recommended to get to the trailhead. We will hike to the Whitewater Preserve property line. Come and feel what it is like to hike a small part of the PCT. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our

volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Note: Take I-10 West use exit #110. We will meet at the corner of Haugen-Lehmann Way and Tamarack Road and caravan to the trail from there. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.925154, -116.689000](#)

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL - NORTH HWY 74 (needs BLM approval) (not in CVMSHCP boundary)

We will hike about 5.4 miles out and back on the legendary Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Starting at 4,928 feet elevation at the Trailhead. The trail meanders up and down through the Garner Valley meadow area, traversing through a sea of chaparral dominated by chamise and red shanks. There are beautiful vistas of the mountains and valleys with glimpses of exposed-rock areas. For the botanically-inclined there are many surprises, as the trail travels through oak and pine forest, past boulders, and along steep cliff sides until reaching a seasonal water source about 2.7 miles. This is the turnaround-point. Elevation gain of 700-feet is tempered by the rise and fall of the trail. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Note: we will meet at the Pacific Crest Trail parking lot on Highway 74. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.5639, -116.57674](#)

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL - SOUTH HWY 74 (USFS not in any Monuments)

Starting at about 4,928 feet elevation, with a 600-foot elevation gain, this moderate 5.4-mile out-and-back trail offers scenic mountain and valley views. The trail begins at the eastern edge of Garner/Pine Valley, and traverses several distinct terrains, each with its own array of plant species while providing vistas of the Santa Rosa Reservation and of the distant Anza Borrego State Park. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Note: we will meet at the Pacific Crest Trail parking lot on Highway 74. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.5639, -116.57674](#)

Pacific Crest Trail - Snow Creek (approved CVMSHCP) updated 11/26/2025

GEORGE'S - Join a Friends' volunteer docent on a hike on the spectacular Pacific Crest Trail and learn about some of the epic resources unique to the Monument! Moderate hike through desert wash, 300-foot elevation gain, 3.0-miles round trip. Trail is of moderate difficulty. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sun hat, and sunscreen. Hiking poles are optional. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. **NOTE:** we will meet at the PCT on Snow Creek Canyon Road off Highway 111. Do not enter private residential area. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.89374, -116.68297

ADDRESS: Snow Creek Road, Whitewater, CA 92282

DANI'S - Hike **for the 23rd Anniversary Celebration of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument** Come out to celebrate the Monument's 23rd anniversary with a special hike lead by the Monument Manager for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Join us on a hike on the spectacular Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and learn about some of the epic resources unique to the Monument! Moderate hike through desert wash, 300-foot elevation gain, 5-miles round trip. Meet at Pacific Crest Trail, about a mile south on Snow Creek Road off Highway 111. West of Windy Point, near the Interstate 10 and Highway

111 intersection. Do not enter private residential area. Space is limited. Must RSVP by **October 23rd**. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.

Painted Canyon Trail Hike, Mecca Wilderness *(BLM-other Chuckwalla Monument)*

Join us for a hike in the Chuckwalla National Monument. On this hike we will walk through the Painted Canyon wash, one of the most impressive and important geological areas in the entire Coachella Valley. Faults crisscross this area and have uplifted the canyon walls hundreds of feet above the wash. Depending on time, we may also hike through an adjacent canyon. After this hike you will know why it is called Painted Canyon. This hike is classified as easy with a distance of 4-5 miles and an elevation gain of over 400 feet. Bring 2 liters of water, a snack to enjoy, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact the Friends' office 760-862-9984. NOTE: Each person must sign up individually and acknowledge our waiver form. Click for map/UTM coordinates: 33.57586, -115.99609
ADDRESS: We will meet at the intersection of Box Canyon Rd and Painted Canyon Rd intersection and caravan to the trailhead.

Pushwalla Palm Oasis Trail *(Coachella Valley Preserve/Thousand Palms Preserve)*

Hike up to Bee-Rock Mesa and follow the ridge of the uplifted earthquake fault. You will enjoy the beautiful palm oasis in Pushwalla Canyon, with its contorted cliffs, colorful terrain, quiet desert backcountry and Coachella Valley views. Hiking poles are suggested. No dogs are allowed on this trail. The distance is 4.5 miles with an elevation gain of 700 feet approximately. Hike rating is moderate to strenuous. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.835381, -116.306887](#)

RAINBOW ROCKS TRAIL *(BLM land, Sand to Snow Monument)* **(Updated 1/15/2026)** **(allow 5 hours)**

Rainbow Rock Canyon Trail is in the Sand to Snow National Monument. You will have great canyon views, potential seasonal waterfalls with access via the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). The trail is in a BLM Wilderness area. This trail has become popular with hikers and is considered strenuous. The trail is not well defined or maintained by the BLM. Feral cattle have been seen in the area. The trail is an out-and-back, approximately 6.5 miles, with elevation gain of 1100 feet. There is no shade on the trail. Sorry no dogs are allowed for this event. Wear sturdy closed toed hiking boots, long pants, layers, light-weight jacket, sun hat, and sun screen. Bring 3 liters of water, lunch and snacks. Hiking poles are recommended. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: NOTE: We will meet at the Ranger Station at Whitewater Preserve. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.98914, -116.65609

ADDRESS: 9160 Whitewater Canyon Rd, Whitewater, CA 92282

Randall Henderson Trail (non-themed) *(approved CVMSHCP)* **updated 9/19/2025**

Our Friends' volunteer docent will take you on a guided hike through the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument! You will see excellent views of the Coachella Valley and learn the history of the area. You will see many unique desert plants and learn how they survive the long hot summers. There are lizards and animals on the trail

including a chance to see the endangered desert tortoises. This trail is in a sandy wash and portions can be on narrow uneven desert terrain. This trail is considered easy. This trail has three (3) loops and your guides will offer you the opportunity to hike as many loops as you would like. The elevation for the second (2nd) loop is approximately 250 feet and the third (3rd) loop approximately 350 feet. The trail is 2.5-miles round trip. Sorry, no dogs allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sunhat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are optional. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: Please note: We will meet at the Randall Henderson Trailhead parking lot located at the Visitor Center. *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.* A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.670193, -116.406895](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260 USA

RANDALL HENDERSON TRAIL THEMED DESCRIPTIONS updated 9/19/2025

WHO MADE THAT HOLE!

As you walk the desert trails, have you noticed the holes and wondered who made them? Explore the Randall Henderson Trail with our volunteer docent leaders to learn the difference between burrows and holes, and the importance of these to the delicate balance of the environment. We will be looking for clues as to the inhabitants as we hike. Hike rating is easy for both the 3 loops/2.5 miles OR the 2 loops/1.5 miles of trail. Elevation gain for the 3 loops is 350 feet. While elevation gain for 2 loops is 250 feet. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring snacks and 2 liters of water per person. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Please note: We will meet at the Randall Henderson Trailhead parking lot located at the Visitor Center. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.* A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.670193, -116.406895](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260 USA

ENDANGERED ANIMALS OF THE MONUMENT

Explore the Randall Henderson Trail with a volunteer docent and learn about two of our federally threatened animals and the challenges they face in the ever-changing environment. Both play different, but equally important roles in the desert ecology. The docent will help you search for them as you hike. Hike rating is easy for both the 3 loops/2.5 miles OR the 2 loops/1.5 miles of trail. Elevation gain for the 3 loops is 350 feet. While elevation gain for 2 loops is 250 feet. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring snacks and 2 liters of water per person. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Please note: We will meet at the Randall Henderson Trailhead parking lot located at the Visitor Center. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.* A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.670193, -116.406895](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260 USA

GEOLOGY OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY!

Hiking the Randall Henderson Trail makes the ideal place to talk about the Geology of the Coachella Valley. From the foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains, we have views of the San Bernadino, San Gorgonio and San Jacinto Mountains. There is evidence of how both fault systems and water have shaped our Valley. A volunteer docent will lead the discussion while hiking the trail. Hike rating is easy for both the 3 loops/2.5 miles OR the 2 loops/1.5 miles of trail. Elevation gain for the 3 loops is 350 feet. While elevation gain for 2 loops is 250 feet. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring snacks and 2 liters of water per person. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Please note: We will meet at the Randall Henderson Trailhead parking lot located at the Visitor Center. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.* A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.670193, -116.406895](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260 USA

WILDFLOWERS! HOW DO THEY SURVIVE IN A DESERT?

Not every year in the desert produces a super bloom. So how do the seeds of these beautiful wildflowers survive years of drought as they wait for the combination of rain and warmth? A volunteer docent will talk about the seed bank, the differences between annuals and perennials, and some of the extraordinary adaptations of the wildflowers in the desert. Hike rating is easy for both the 3 loops/2.5 miles OR the 2 loops/1.5 miles of trail. Elevation gain for the 3 loops is 350 feet. While elevation gain for 2 loops is 250 feet. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring snacks and 2 liters of water per person. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Please note: We will meet at the Randall Henderson Trailhead parking lot located at the Visitor Center. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.* A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.670193, -116.406895](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260 USA

Rancho Mirage-Jackrabbit & Bighorn Overlook Trails Full Moon Hike *(needs BLM approval) (not in CVMSHCP boundary) updated 9/8/2025*

Join Friends of the Desert Mountains volunteer docents on a full moon hike on the Jackrabbit/Bighorn Overlook trail loop. You will experience the views of our desert mountains in the amazing wash of moonlight and shadows, as well as the urban night lights of the Coachella Valley. This is a family friendly easy 1-mile hike with 200 feet of elevation gain (approximately 1.0 hour duration). The trail is narrow, 2 feet wide and on cobbled desert terrain. Bring 1 liter of water per person, headlamp or flashlight and wear close-toed shoes. No dogs allowed for this event. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to your group's departure time. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to your group's departure time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.* A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 1 week prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.771071, -116.448379](#)

ADDRESS: 59825 CA-111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 USA

Rancho Mirage-Chuckwalla Trail Full Moon Hike (needs BLM approval) (not in CVMSHCP boundary)

updated 9/8/2025

Grab your hiking boots and join Friends of the Desert Mountains volunteer docents on a full moon hike on the lower portion of the Chuckwalla Trail. You will experience the views of our desert mountains in the amazing wash of moonlight and shadows, as well as the urban night lights of the Coachella Valley. This is a family friendly easy 2-mile hike with 350 feet of elevation gain. The trail is narrow, 2 feet wide and has 1-steep incline with cobbled desert terrain. No dogs allowed for this event. Bring 1-2 liter of water per person, headlamp or flashlight and wear close-toed shoes. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to your group's departure time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 1 week prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.771071, -116.448379](#)

ADDRESS: 59825 CA-111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 USA

Red Dome Trail (Updated 12/14/2025)

The Red Dome/Rainbow Rocks trail is in the Sand to Snow National Monument and part of the historic Pacific Crest Trail. The Friends' docent will discuss how recent rain events and snow melt has changed the river bed. As we leave the ranger station, we will follow the trail and crossing the river and head North to reach Red Dome hill. The area is great for birding and quiet solitude. The trail is an out and back approximately 4.5 miles with elevation gain of +/- 400 feet. Trail is considered moderate. Sorry no dogs are allowed for this event. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in is 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: NOTE: We will meet in the parking lot near the Ranger Station. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 1 week prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.98914, -116.65609](#)

ADDRESS: 9160 Whitewater Canyon Rd, Whitewater, CA 92282

Shannon Trail (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 9/12/2025)

Grab your hiking poles, get outdoors, and hike up the Shannon Trail with a Friends' volunteer docent. The trail follows a wash before ascending the barren hills to an overlook atop a rocky high point. Along the way you will learn about the National Monument, some of the colorful local history of Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. This hike is rated moderate to strenuous with an elevation gain of 800 feet. The trail is well maintained. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water and snacks. Wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are suggested. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: Note: We will meet at the trailhead located in the wash on South Araby Drive parking lot. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.794641, -116.514338

ADDRESS: South Araby Drive in Araby Wash, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Skeleton Canyon Trail (BLM-other Chuckwalla Monument)

Join us for a hike in the Chuckwalla National Monument. This hike is classified as easy with 3.5 to 4.5 miles and an elevation gain of over 300 feet. Experience walking along the San Andreas Fault network and see and touch red fault gorge covered hills as we hike through the Skeleton Canyon wash. We will be surrounded by the Mecca Hills and have opportunities to explore smaller canyons and even a slot canyon during this hike. With some luck we will have wildflowers blooming in the canyons. This is not your typical Coachella Valley hike so do not miss the opportunity to experience the amazing Mecca Wilderness. Bring 3 liters of water, a snack **to enjoy at the oasis**, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: Note: We will meet at the intersection of Box Canyon Rd and Painted Canyon Rd and caravan to the trailhead. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.575860, -115.996090](#)

Address: Box Canyon Road and Painted Canyon Road, Mecca, CA

Shiprock Historical Landmark at Chino Canyon Hike *property owned by City of Palm Springs since 2017, 2 historical monuments erected, identified as a public tourist site open 24/7 (NOT AN APPROVED TRAIL per Dani)*

Take an easy loop walk on a bajada near Chino Canyon. This is Palm Springs newest park saved by the Friends of San Jacinto Mountains. See the rock that was used for advertising on Highway 111 near Windy Point. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, a sun hat and sunscreen. Dogs allowed on leash. RSVP is required. You must bring your ticket with you for check-in 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. To get to the parking lot, do a U-Turn on Highway 111 at the Windy Point turn. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.86954, -116.57736](#)

SoCal Adaptive Sports *See separate google doc*

Join SoCal Adaptive Sports and Friends of the Desert Mountains volunteer docents on a hike for persons with disabilities their family, and friends at (name of trail).

South Lykken Trail *(South Palm Canyon trailhead)*

Discover this 3.0 mile out-and-back trail with an elevation gain of 1,000 feet in the Palm Springs. Generally considered a moderate challenging trail. We will be hiking up to the picnic tables. It can be a great workout, scenic, and a wonderful place to spot local flora and fauna. This is a very popular area for birding, hiking, and running. You will likely encounter other people while exploring. Bighorn Sheep sightings are common, with lizards, roadrunners, and several interesting cacti. You will need to leave pups at home as dogs are not allowed on this trail. There is minimal to no shade so wear plenty of sun protection. Bring 2 liters of water, a sun hat and wear close-toed shoes. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984.

UTM's: 33.77881, -116.54577

ADDRESS:

Spitler Peak Trail *(USFS not in any Monuments)*

The trail starts in Garner Valley's chaparral country at about 4920 feet elevation. The first mile is relatively flat with the second mile a gentle ascent. Chamise is the most common shrub in the lower chaparral region with the striking manzanita appearing a little higher. Looming above to the east is Spitler Peak, at 7440 feet. When the ascent grows too steep, we will admire Spitler Peak from the base, before turning back down the trail. This hike is easy to moderate,

approximately 3.5-miles roundtrip. This trail is friendly to dogs on a leash. Bring 2 liters of water, a sun hat, sunscreen and wear close-toed shoes. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Click here for map/UTM coordinates [33.697826, -116.652282](#)

Star Party at the Monument (approved CVMSHCP)

Join members of the Astronomical Society of the Desert for fun “sky tours” and direct observations of the night sky through telescopes and binoculars. You may see various planets, star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, comets, meteors, and other deep sky objects. This is a family event. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. This event is wheelchair accessible with asphalt surfaces. Come with plenty of questions. Sorry, no dogs are allowed for this event. RSVP required. Check-in is available throughout the event. Note Etiquette: please do not touch equipment unless requested. No white lights near the telescope field. Click here for map/UTM coordinates for location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.** Hosted by the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center. Co-sponsored by Friends of the Desert Mountains. NOTE: CHECK WEATHER BEFORE DEPARTING, THIS EVENT WILL BE CANCELED FOR HEAVY CLOUD COVER, WIND OR RAIN.

UTMs: [33.67149, -116.40839](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Roy Wilson Memorial Highway, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Star Party in the Mountains (approved CVMSHCP)

Join members of the Astronomical Society of the Desert for fun “sky tours” and direct observations of the night sky through telescopes and binoculars. You may see various planets, star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, comets, meteors, and other deep sky objects. This is a family event. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. This event is wheelchair accessible with asphalt surfaces. Come with plenty of questions. Sorry, no dogs are allowed for this event. RSVP required. Check-in is available throughout the event. Note Etiquette: please do not touch equipment unless requested. No white lights near the telescope field. Click here for map/UTM coordinates for location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.** Hosted by the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center. Co-sponsored by Friends of the Desert Mountains. NOTE: CHECK WEATHER BEFORE DEPARTING, THIS EVENT WILL BE CANCELED FOR HEAVY CLOUD COVER, WIND OR RAIN.

UTMs: [33.57995, -116.45056](#)

ADDRESS: Pinon Flats Transfer Station Road, Mountain Center, CA 92561

TWISTED CANYON in the CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Join us for a hike in the Chuckwalla National Monument. This hike is classified as easy with 2.7 to 3.0 miles and an elevation gain of 400 feet. We will start our hike in a sandy wash that provides excellent views of the Mecca Hills that have been eroded, folded and crushed by the San Andreas Fault network over the eons. Then we will enter a side canyon and explore two separate paths that twist and turn their way through these hills. You will experience firsthand the incredible landscape of the Chuckwalla National Monument. Bring 2 liters of water per person and snacks. Wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is

appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends at 750-568-9918.

NOTE: Each person must sign up individually and acknowledge our waiver form. Click here for map/UTM coordinates:

33.59051, -115.97312

Thielman Trail (aka: Frank Bogert Trail) (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 9/12/2025)

Grab your hiking poles and join our Friends' volunteer docent, on the Theilman Trail. This urban hike begins with a few rolling hills, a steep ascent with some switchbacks and levels out as you near the Whitehorse intersection. Once you reach the top, there are sweeping vistas of the Coachella Valley, Mount San Jacinto, the Santa Rosa mountains, and Little San Bernardino mountains. Along the way you will learn about the National Monument and some of the colorful local history of Palm Springs. This 3.5-mile hike is rated strenuous with an elevation gain of 700 feet. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water and snacks. Wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. Hiking poles are suggested. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Note: We will meet at the trailhead located at Bogert Trail & Andreas Hills Drive. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs.

Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.

UTM's: [33.765914, -116.524946](#)

ADDRESS: Bogert Trail & Andreas Hills Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264

TORTOISE CHAT

Have questions about desert tortoises? Come visit our desert tortoise enclosure and learn about conservation efforts to study and protect our wild desert tortoise population in the Monument. Also, great opportunity to meet Bowser, our adopted Mojave desert tortoise who lives on site. Meet at the tortoise enclosure any time between 8:30am – 11:30am. (Summer hours: 8:30am to 9:30am. Note: times may be reduced due to heat.) NO RESERVATION REQUIRED.

For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center at 760-862-9984.

Sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management in partnership with Friends of the Desert Mountains.

TORTOISE CHAT AND STORYTIME

Tortoise Talk & Walk (approved CVMSHCP)

The Randall Henderson Trail is habitat for our endangered desert tortoise. Meg, National Monument Park Ranger, OR a Friends' volunteer docent, will lead you on this 1-mile loop hike. You will learn many interesting tidbits as you search for the tortoises on the trail. At trails end, you will have the opportunity to visit with the Visitor Center's *desert tortoise ambassador* at his burrow. The trail is in a sandy wash on uneven desert terrain and 2 feet wide. Sorry, no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 2 liters of water, snacks, wear closed-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. Note: we will meet at the Visitor Center. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Click here for map/UTM coordinates:

UTMs: [33.67149, -116.40839](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Use Meg's name if she is leading this event.

Vargas Palms Trail (approved CVMSHCP)

Hikers will journey through a variety of habitats including desert wash, sand dunes, rocky canyon, and native palm oasis. Cameras recommended for this famous view of Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Wildlife watching opportunities and vistas are stunning! The hike to a less traveled destination is moderate with 570 feet elevation and 4.5 miles round trip. The last 500 feet to the oasis will involve scrambling around large boulders which adds to the fun. Bring snacks and 2 liters of water per person. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen; recommend long pants for scrambling. Bring a small towel for possible water crossings. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.899136, -116.679622](#)

Wildflower Festival Nature Walk (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 1/30/2026)

Celebrate Wildflower Festival Day by taking a walk among the many blooms this spring. All seeds in the ground had a very big party as the rains fell in December. After their party they decided they would let their blooms shine for The Wildflower Festival. Join our Friends' volunteers on this 0.25 mile walk to learn about the desert's spring wildflowers. Sorry, no dogs are allowed on this trail. Wear closed-toed shoes, sunhat, sunscreen and bring 1 liter of water. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to your group's departure time. View map/UTM coordinates for directions to trailhead location: **Note: we will meet at the Randall Henderson parking lot.** For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.670193, -116.406895

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260 USA

Wildflower Nature Walk-R Henderson Trail (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 1/30/2026)

The flowers are very happy to show off their blooms thanks to the rains. Enjoy learning about our desert spring wildflowers, how to identify the various blooms and interesting facts. You will walk the lower Randall Henderson "Wash" trail only approximately 0.25 mile. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 1 liter of water per person. Wear close-toed shoes, sunhat, and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to your group's departure time. View map/UTM coordinates for directions to trailhead location: **Note: we will meet at the Randall Henderson parking lot.** For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.670193, -116.406895

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260 USA

Wildflower Nature Walk-Bear Creek Wash (approved CVMSHCP) (Updated 1/30/2026)

Fun for the entire family to explore the Bear Creek Wash searching for wildflowers. Thanks to all the recent rains the wildflowers are happy to show off this season. You and your children will learn how to identify the blooms and learn interesting facts. We will begin hiking from the small parking lot to the Oasis and down into the Bear Creek Wash and returning. The walk will be about 2.0 miles. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. Bring 1 liter of water per person. Wear close-toed shoes, sunhat, and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates for directions to trailhead location: **Please note: we are meeting in the Cove Oasis Trail parking lot.** For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer

programs. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. **Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.64875, -116.31708

ADDRESS: Cove Oasis Trailhead Parking Lot, 54990 Avenida Madero, La Quinta, CA 92254

2023 Wildflower 5k Trail Fun Run/Walk (needs edits annually)

Families and friends come out and start your day with a 5K TRAIL FUN Run/Walk on the Randall Henderson Trail on Saturday, **March 18**. Registration begins at 7:30 AM, Trail Run/Walk starts at 8:00 AM. All ages are welcome! This family fun event is about experiencing nature at its best, with beautiful spring wildflowers and breathtaking views of the Santa Rosa mountains. Friends of the Desert Mountains is celebrating **35 years** of conservation in the Coachella Valley and your participation will help us continue saving our desert. Sorry no dogs or strollers are allowed on the trail. Entrance fee is **\$35.00** per person and includes a t-shirt. Age 12 and under, there is NO registration fee or t-shirt. **Cancellation policy:** notice must be received by **March 11th** for refund. **RSVP required.** Online sign-ups end at 12:00 PM on Friday, **March 17, 2023**. For more information call: 760-568-9918. **Note:** we will meet at the Randall Henderson Trailhead. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.670193, -116.406895](#)

2026 - 11th Annual Wildflower 5K Trail Fun Run/Walk

(FYI: 1st LQC trail run 3/14/26 and the 1st RHT trail run was 2015)

Lace up for the Wildflower 5K Trail Run/Walk with Friends of the Desert Mountains, launching at a brand-new venue in La Quinta Cove. The course starts and finishes at the Cove Trailhead, following the Cove trails as it cuts through the palm oasis picnic area and continues onto the Bear Creek Nature Trail and the Fred Wolff Nature Preserve. Designed for speed and flow, the route features minimal elevation gain and wide well-marked trails making it ideal for both runners and walkers. Friends of the Desert Mountains is celebrating **39** years of conservation in the Coachella Valley, and your participation will help us continue saving our desert. Dogs and trail-capable strollers are welcome. **Check-in begins at 7:30am. Meet at the Cove Trailhead at the end of the big parking lot.** Entrance fee is **\$40.00** per person and includes a t-shirt. Ages 12 and under, there is NO registration fee or t-shirt. **Cancellation policy: notice must be received by **March 7th, 2026** for refund.** Online sign-ups end at 12:00 PM on Friday, **March 6, 2026**. For more information call: 760-568-9918.

UTM's: 33.648969, -116.309324

ADDRESS: La Quinta Cove Trails Parking Lot, Calle Tecate & Avenida Bermudas, Calle Tecate & Avenida Bermudas

Willis Palms Oasis Trail (Coachella Valley Preserve/Thousand Palms Preserve)

This oasis sits on the San Andreas fault and has water flowing in it all year. In 2010, a fire nearly destroyed the oasis. These palms are home to the Western Yellow Bat. How many palms can you count? We will hike about 2 miles with 100 feet elevation. Trail is on uneven desert terrain with some cobble on the trail. Bring snacks, 2 liters of water per person and your hiking poles. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends at 760-568-9918. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.822404, -116.323454](#)

Willis Palms Oasis Loop Trail (Coachella Valley Preserve/Thousand Palms Preserve) Updated 9/9/2025

You will be hiking on the San Andreas fault and experiencing all the beauty and adventure it delivers on this unique trail. During the hike we will discuss the incredible biodiversity as we explore 3 different desert habitats; examine the complex geology in and around the oasis and hike through the middle of the 4th largest desert oasis in the Coachella Valley. The hike is a 4.7-mile loop trail with over 500 feet of elevation gain. Bring snacks, 2 liters of water per person and your hiking poles. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. Sorry no dogs are allowed on this trail. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: For more information, contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center at 760-862-9984. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: [33.822404, -116.323454](#)

ADDRESS: Thousand Palms Canyon Road, Thousand Palms, CA 92276 USA

Willis Palms and West Mesa Trail *(Coachella Valley Preserve/Thousand Palms Preserve)*

Join Susan and Steve this winter as they explore the different Preserves that surround the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. This trail in the Coachella Valley Preserve/Thousand Palms Preserve is rated as easy with a hike distance of 2 miles and an elevation gain of 200 feet. We will explore the desert wash of the West Mesa Trail and then continue our hike through the Willis Palms Oasis. During the hike, we will highlight the different plants that populate these two habitats. We will also discuss the role that earthquake faults play in creating the microecosystem of the fan palm oasis; how this oasis was almost destroyed by a wildfire; and the role the Preserve plays in protecting the flora and fauna of the region. Bring snacks, 2 liters of water per person and your hiking poles. Wear close-toed shoes, sun hat and sunscreen. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. For more information contact Friends at 760-568-9918. Click here for map/UTM coordinates: [33.822404, -116.323454](#)

Address: Willis Palms Trailhead, 29200 Thousand Palms Canyon Road, Thousand Palms, CA, 92276

Yoga With A Ranger *(updated 9/15/2025)*

Join National Monument park ranger for an outdoor fun yoga flow for all skill levels. Connect with the landscape through a sequence of physical postures, movements, and breathing techniques that also strengthen your body and mind. Poses commonly mimic the Earth, animals, and trees. This outdoor activity is routinely performed barefoot. Bring a yoga mat or towel, water, and sunscreen. Limited to 15 participants. Meet on the Visitor Center Patio. View map/UTM coordinates for the Visitor Center: *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains at 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center at 760-862-9984.* Sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management in partnership with Friends of the Desert Mountains. RSVP is required. **Reservations begin 14 days prior to the event.**

UTM's: [33.67149, -116.40839](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Yoga Sunset With A Ranger *updated 9/15/2025*

Join National Monument park ranger for a sunset fun yoga flow for all skill levels. Relax as the sun sets and stars emerge, flowing through gentle outdoor yoga to unwind and connect with nature through a sequence of physical postures, movements, and breathing techniques that also strengthen your body and mind. Poses commonly mimic Earth, animals and trees. This outdoor activity is routinely performed barefoot. Bring a yoga mat or towel, water, and sunscreen. Limited to 15 participants. Meet on the Visitor Center Patio. View map/UTM coordinates for the Visitor Center: *For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains at 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center at 760-862-9984.* Sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management in partnership with Friends of the Desert Mountains. RSVP is required. **Reservations begin 14 days prior to the event.**

UTM's: [33.67149, -116.40839](#)

ADDRESS: 51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA 92260

TRAILS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO DO:

Box Canyon Trails *(BLM land, non-Monuments)*

Cactus Springs Trail *(approved CVMSHCP-USFS)* (Same as Dolomite/Horsethief Creek need additional information in description)

Cahuilla Mountain, Anza *(USFS-San Bernardino National Forest)*

Cathedral Canyon Trail to AST *(approved CVMSHCP)*

Omstott-Pinyon Flats Hike *(USFS approved trail but not CVMSHCP)*

Deer Springs Trail *(USFS-San Bernardino National Forest)*

Devil's Slide Trail *(USFS-San Bernardino National Forest)*

Eagle Canyon Trail *(approved CVMSHCP)*

Fobes Trail to PCT *(needs BLM approval) (not in CVMSHCP boundary)*

Hopalong Trail from AST *(approved CVMSHCP)*

Ladders Canyon & Painted Canyon *(BLM land, non-Monuments)*

Magnesia Canyon (Oct-Nov-Dec) *(approved CVMSHCP)* *(Updated 12/18/2025)*

Join our volunteers for a unique hiking experience in the Magnesia Spring Ecological Canyon trail. This canyon is only open Oct-Nov-Dec as it is home to the endangered Peninsular Bighorn sheep. We begin our trek from Blixseth Park to the canyon. At the canyon entrance you will begin hiking a series of dry waterfalls. The second waterfall is approximately 50 feet high. At this point you may choose to return or continue the trail. Once atop the waterfall you will find much smaller ones to traverse to the back of the canyon. The dramatic canyon walls tell their own story of how rain events have shaped our mountains and canyons over the millennia of time. This trail is an out and back trail approximately 4 miles. Sorry no dogs allowed on this trail. Wear sturdy closed toed hiking boots, long pants, sun hat, and sunscreen. Bring 2 liters of water and snacks. Hiking poles are optional. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. We will meet in the Blixseth Mountain Park paved parking lot. View map/UTM coordinates directions for meeting hike leader at this location: For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.

UTM's: 33.742407, -116.420214

ADDRESS: Blixseth Park Entrance, 71231 Mirage Road, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

McManus Trail *(approved CVMSHCP)*

Palm Canyon Trail, Hwy 74 *(approved CVMSHCP-USFS)*

Potrero Canyon, Pinyon Flats *(approved CVMSHCP-USFS)*

Ramona Trail *(USFS land, non-Monuments)*

Grotto via Sheep Hole Oasis-Hidden Springs Oasis *(BLM land, non-Monuments)* **(Updated 12/18/2025)**

Join us on this guided hike in the Mecca Hills Wilderness area and Chuckwalla National Monument. The Mecca Grotto hike is classified as strenuous: 5.75 miles with an elevation gain of over 800 feet. Unfortunately, the Mecca grotto collapsed several years ago, so this hike leads us to the towering canyon where the Grotto entrance previously existed. We will start the hike by following a ridge trail that offers outstanding views of the Salton Sea. We will climb down from the ridge on an uneven and steep path until we reach a sandy wash that leads to the Grotto canyon. After exploring the canyon and stopping to talk about the incredible painted hills geology and plant life that thrives here, we will start our return trip. However, we will take a short side hike to visit a palm grove at Hidden Springs. Sorry, no dogs allowed for this event. Bring 3 liters of water, snacks/lunch, wear closed-toed shoes, a sunhat, and sunscreen. Hiking poles are suggested. RSVP is required. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to start time. View map/UTM coordinates directions for trailhead location: **NOTE: We will meet on Box Canyon Road and then walk a short distance to the trailhead. Use UTM coordinates for directions to the meeting spot.** For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918. A suggested non-refundable donation of \$10.00 per person is appreciated and encouraged to support our volunteer programs. **Ticket reservations begin 2 weeks prior to the event and will be published at that time. Your optional non-refundable donation is not a ticket to attend.**

UTM's: 33.58910° N, 115.93006° W

ADDRESS: Box Canyon Road, Mecca, CA 92254

South Ridge Trail *(USFS-San Bernardino National Forest)*

Tracy's Dog Walks

At Whitewater Preserve, La Quinta Cove and Gabby Hayes trails. Sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management in partnership with Friends of the Desert Mountains.

Happy Tails Dog Walk at the La Quinta Cove

Dogs! Fetch your leash and join other dogs on this desert hike in the Santa Rosa Mountains. This hike provides great exercise while exploring the desert. Learn about dog friendly trails in the National Monument – and hike on! Pack plenty of water for this fun outing. Hike rating is moderate with 1000 feet elevation gain and 3 miles. Your guide is Tracy Albrecht, Interpretive Specialist, Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Registration begins 2 weeks prior. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. UTM Coordinates: [33.648969, -116.309324](#) Hosted by the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center. Co-sponsored by Friends of the Desert Mountains.

Happy Tails Dog Adventures, Gabby Hayes Trail

Dogs! Fetch your leash and join other dogs on this desert hike in the Santa Rosa Mountains. This hike provides great exercise while exploring the desert. Learn about dog friendly trails in the National Monument – and hike on! Pack plenty of water for this fun outing. Hike rating is moderate with 1000 feet elevation gain and 3 miles. Meet at the picnic tables. **RSVP is required, by 12:00 PM, December 6. Registration begins 2 weeks prior.** Your guide is Tracy

Albrecht, Interpretive Specialist, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Participants will meet with the hike leader at the picnic tables at Cahuilla Hills Park. UTM coordinates: [33.714298, -116.400529](#)

Happy Tails Dog Adventures, Whitewater & PCT

Dogs! Fetch your leash, get some great exercise and join other dogs while exploring the desert on this hike. Learn about dog friendly trails in the Sand to Snow and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monuments – and hike on! Pack plenty of water for this fun outing. You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy afterwards. Hike rating is easy with 500 feet elevation gain and 3 miles. Your guide is Tracy Albrecht, Interpretive Specialist, Sand to Snow National Monument. **RSVP is required, by 12:00 PM, October 3.** Sign-ups begin 2 weeks prior to the event. For more information contact Friends of the Desert Mountains 760-568-9918 or the Visitor Center 760-862-9984. UTM Coordinates for the Whitewater Preserve are [33.98914, -116.65609](#)