

DECEMBER 2017

INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Friday, December 1, 2017

All Day – Educational Symposium – Colorado Desert Cultural Heritage Symposium **3 days**



Join us for our 3rd Colorado Desert Cultural Heritage Symposium, a three-day educational event where anthropological research and cultural heritage raise public awareness and understanding to promote respect for our past and an appreciation of diversity. See website for speakers and details. \$45 Public/\$25 Student. Visit www.theabf.org/2017Symposium or call Briana for more details and to register: 760-767-0446 ext 1004.

Saturday, December 2, 2017

2:00 p.m. ♿ – Junior Rangers **1 Hour**

Special program for children ages 7-12 only. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

7:00 p.m. ♿ – Moon Features Come Alive **1 Hour**

Have you wondered what the “Man in the Moon” really is? Or do you see a rabbit? Or a woman? Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center to watch the full moon and get tips for recognizing its prominent craters and features. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Sunday, December 3, 2017

7:30 a.m. Walk – Bird Walk **1.5 Hours**



Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

9:00 a.m. Hike -- Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon **3 Hours**

Volunteer Naturalist Bonnie Clapp will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for her as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

4:00 p.m. ♿ – Moon Features Come Alive **1 Hour**

Have you wondered what the “Man in the Moon” really is? Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for this interactive program to discern the features of the Moon and see a demonstration of the Moon phases. Meet in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab. Stay for the Moon rise.

5:00 p.m. ♿ – The Moon Rises **30 Minutes**

Watch the Full Moon rise. Bring out your lawn chair and binoculars and meet on the Visitor Center Roof, the “Bridge”, for star and moon gazing. Dress warmly for welcoming this month’s moon.

UNLESS NOTED, ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND HELD AT THE VISITOR CENTER*
(OPEN EVERY DAY 9 AM to 5 PM). ♿ DENOTES PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION, (760) 767-4205.

DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TRAILS OR TOURS. *DAY USE FEE \$10 PER CAR FRI-SAT-SUN/HOLIDAYS

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Monday, December 4, 2017

6:30 a.m. Walk – Discover Hidden Treasures on the Palm Canyon Trail 2 Hours

Join State Park Volunteer Naturalist Terry Hunefeld for an easy 2-hour nature walk on the Palm Canyon Trail. We will not reach the palm oasis, but you will have the option to continue on your own. Enjoy the sunrise, look for birds and Bighorn Sheep and examine different species of desert plants to see if we can figure out how they survive drought and intense summer heat. Bring binoculars if you have them – and water, hat, sunscreen and hiking footwear. Meet at the Palm Canyon Trailhead. Limited to 10 participants. Sign up at the Visitor Center.

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

8:30 a.m. Hike – Weekly Members Hike 3.5 Hours



Meet at the State Park Store in the Mall. Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. Led by Park Rangers, retired Park Rangers, and various Park enthusiasts, these hikes take you to little-known but easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park as a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Join at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. For information, call 760-767-0446 ext. 1003 or visit www.theabf.org/2017-member-hikes. No advance registration required.

Thursday, December 7, 2017

9:00 a.m. Hike – Earthquake Valley Panorama 3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists, Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund, for a moderate 4-mile hike up Plum Canyon to an overlook high over Earthquake Valley. Discover some interesting plants and geologic features along the way. Meet at the entrance to Plum Canyon off Highway 78.

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – Notice and Wonder 1.5 Hours

Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter to explore Nature journaling. We'll observe the desert closely and record what we experience with very basic techniques of writing, drawing, and painting to focus on what we notice and what we wonder. No artistic ability required! Bring your own journal or use ours. Be prepared with water, sunhat, and sunscreen.

1:00 p.m. Walk ♿ – Desert Scents 1 Hour

Enjoy an easy stroll through the visitor center garden with Volunteer Naturalist Ingrid Coffin. Use your senses on this plant exploration program that meets at the Visitor Center entrance.

Friday, December 8, 2017

10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – Paleontology Lecture 2 Hours

Join the Paleontology Society for their monthly lecture series. Mary Pat Weber will present a lecture on Stromatolites. Open to the public.

3:30 p.m. Walk ♿ – Let's Be Crepuscular 1 Hour

You probably know "Nocturnal", maybe "Diurnal". Walk with Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for an easy walk near the Visitor Center at dusk to explore the fascinating and surprisingly active hour between the day and night. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

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Saturday, December 9, 2017

9:00 a.m. Social Hike – Hikes & Hops at Mountain Palm Springs

5 Hours



Join ABF Education & Outreach Coordinator Ashley for a 5-mile hike in one of her favorite spots in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park! We will wind our way through a loop in the Mountain Palm Springs area, visiting 4 different palm groves on our way. \$20 Public/\$15 ABF Members. Visit www.theabf.org/events or call Ashley at 760-767-0446 ext 1003 for more details and to register.

9:00 a.m. Hike – Cool Canyon

4 Hours

Join Brian and Susie Jones on a strenuous 3-mile round trip hike up Cool Canyon. We'll hike up some dry waterfalls in the higher country where the flora is different from that of the desert floor and observe some of the many lizards that live there (provided we have warm weather). Meet at 9:00 am at the intersection of County Highway S-2 and the first dirt road to the west (near mile marker 22), one-half mile south of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park boundary sign just beyond Shelter Valley. Approximate drive time is 45 minutes from the ABDSP Visitor Center. Four-wheel drive not required. Hike is limited to 15 people. Please sign up at the Visitor Center. Bring water, a hat, snacks, hiking sticks (optional) and wear sturdy hiking shoes.

2:00 p.m. ♿ – Junior Rangers

1 Hour

Special program for children ages 7-12 only. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

7:00 p.m. Campfire ♿ – The Amazing World of Bats—Nature's Tiny Fighter Jets

1 Hour

Although they are misunderstood and often feared, bats are fascinating animals with incredible skills of flight and nighttime navigation. Join Volunteer Naturalist Don Endicott at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center for a multimedia exploration of these amazing fliers.

Sunday, December 10, 2017

9:00 a.m. Hike – Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Bonnie Clapp will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for her as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

11:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – Mystery Cat: Anza-Borrego's Elusive Mountain Lion

1 Hour

Join volunteer naturalist Don Endicott for a multi-media introduction to the natural history of the Park's seldom seen apex predator. Don's talk will describe the amazing attributes and signature behaviors of our big cats, show how relationships between Mountain Lions and people changed over time, and outline their key contributions to a healthy wilderness environment. Meet in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab.

1:00 p.m. Talk ♿ – Bighorn Sheep: Symbol of Desert Wilderness (Discovery Lab)

1 Hour

Join Volunteer Naturalist Tony DeLorenzo to find out about bighorn sheep. Where did they come from? What is their history here in the desert? What are their prospects for the future?

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Monday, December 11, 2017

5:55 a.m. Walk – Sunrise at Fonts Point: Cross-Country Rim Walk **3.5 Hours**

Join State Park Volunteer Naturalist Terry Hunefeld for a slow 3.5-hour nature & geology amble along the Fonts Point escarpment to watch the sunrise over the Borrego Badlands. We will explore geologic processes, climate changes, and desert life adaptations as we look down into a million years of pre-history. This is a moderate 2.5-mile walk over rolling terrain. We will make many stops to soak in the views and talk about what we are seeing. Water, good hiking shoes, hats, and a 4-wheel drive high clearance vehicle are mandatory (no exceptions). Binoculars will be helpful. Meet Terry at 5:55 a.m. at the entrance to Fonts Point Wash, mile marker 29.3 on Hwy S-22. Limited to 10 participants. Register at the Visitor Center.

10:00 a.m. Lecture ♿ – Anza-Borrego Desert Botany Society Monthly Lecture **1 Hour**

Larry Hendrickson, District Botanist, will present “Palms to Pines – The Diverse Landscape of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.” Meet at UC Irvine’s Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center, at the west end of Tilting T Drive (401 Tilting T Drive). The public is welcome.

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

8:30 a.m. Hike – Weekly Members Hike **3.5 Hours**



Meet at the State Park Store in the Mall. Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. Led by Park Rangers, retired Park Rangers, and various Park enthusiasts, these hikes take you to little-known but easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park as a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Join at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. For information, call 760-767-0446 ext. 1003 or visit www.theabf.org/2017-member-hikes. No advance registration required.

Thursday, December 14, 2017

9:00 a.m. Hike – Hornblende Canyon **4 Hours**

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund on a moderate hike in Hornblende Canyon. We will check out plants along the way as we enjoy one of the most beautiful but overlooked canyons in the Park. Bring hiking stick(s), ample water, hiking boots and lunch. Meet at entrance to Blair Valley at 9am. Hike is about 4 miles.

Saturday, December 16, 2017

7:30 a.m. Walk – Bird Walk **1.5 Hours**



Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars if you have them. Rain cancels.

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Saturday, December 16, 2017 (continued)

10:00 a.m. Lecture ♿ – **Anza-Borrego: In Focus- Seldom Seen Stones: the Robert Begole Collection of “Palaeolithic” Stone Tools from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** **1 Hour**



Large bifacial stone tools that resemble early Palaeolithic stone tools from Africa, Europe, and Asia were collected in the park by Robert Begole many years ago. In this talk, the Begole artifacts are compared with stone tools from other American sites, which are being studied to determine the age and cultural connections of these possibly early stone tools. Lecture is at the UCI Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center (401 Tilting T Dr, Borrego Springs). \$5 at the door, no advance registration needed.

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – **Desert Mart** **45 Minutes**

Come stroll down the aisles of Desert-Mart with Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker to discover how the ingenious Native Americans used desert plants for their food, clothing, shelter, and medicine. Focus is on the three most important plants: Agave, Creosote, and Mesquite. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

12:00 p.m. Field Class – **Anza-Borrego: In Focus- Seldom Seen Stones: the Robert Begole Collection of “Palaeolithic” Stone Tools from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** **3 Hours**



Large bifacial stone tools that resemble early Palaeolithic stone tools from Africa, Europe, and Asia were collected in the park by Robert Begole many years ago. In this talk, the Begole artifacts are compared with stone tools from other American sites, which are being studied to determine the age and cultural connections of these possibly early stone tools. \$35/\$25 for ABF Members. Advanced registration is required. Visit www.theabf.org/events or call Briana at 760-767-0446 ext 1004 for more details and to register.

2:00 p.m. Junior Rangers Family Program ♿ – **Bighorn Sheep** **1 Hour**

Our regular Saturday Junior Ranger program for kids 7-12 is open to Park lovers of all ages *today only!* The program will begin with a welcome for Junior Rangers before Volunteer Naturalist Tony DeLorenzo introduces everyone to the habits and characteristics of Bighorn Sheep. Where did they come from? What is their history here in the desert? What are their prospects for the future?

7:00 p.m. Talk ♿ – **Enjoy Anza-Borrego’s Dark Night Sky!** **1 Hour**

Winter nights are perfect for Stargazing. Explore constellations and learn about the importance of dark skies everywhere. Bring binoculars if you have them, flashlight (red lens is preferable) and your imagination! Look for Interpreter Sally Theriault at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

Sunday, December 17, 2017

10:30 a.m. Talk ♿ – **In Search of the Elusive Elephant Tree** **30 Minutes**

The seldom-seen, endangered elephant tree survives in only a few scattered and isolated spots in California. Join Volunteer Naturalist Karen Cormier at the Visitor Center to find out how to identify these distinctive trees, hear why Native Americans valued them, and discover where you can look for elephant tree herds “in the wild”.

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Sunday, December 17, 2017 (continued)

12:00 p.m. Hike – Discovering the Archaeological History of the ‘Ehmuu Morteros 2 Hours

Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Kumeyaay Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archaeologist and Naturalist Sam Webb to explore both rock art and historic milling features. This 1.5 mile hike is over uneven terrain. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Morteros trailhead in Blair Valley, about 3 miles off Highway S-2 on a dirt road (turn into Blair Valley near mile marker 23).

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

8:30 a.m. Hike – Weekly Members Hike 3.5 Hours



Meet at the State Park Store in the Mall. Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. Led by Park Rangers, retired Park Rangers, and various Park enthusiasts, these hikes take you to little-known but easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park as a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Join at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. For information, call 760-767-0446 ext. 1003 or visit www.theabf.org/2017-member-hikes. No advance registration required.

Thursday, December 21, 2017

9:00 a.m. Hike – Inside Truckhaven Rocks 3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson for a moderate 3-mile hike up a wash into Truckhaven Rocks to a sandstone formation 4-5 million years old. These rocks are formed from sediments derived from local rock, are steeply tilted to the north, and have been called the “Swiss cheese” of our local desert. At one point we can climb up one of these tilted slabs for a great view. Bring water, snack, hat, and sturdy hiking shoes. Meet at the half-circle parking area at Mile Marker 36.2 on Highway S-22 heading east to the Salton Sea.

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – Desert Mart 45 Minutes

Come stroll down the aisles of Desert-Mart with Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker to discover how the ingenious Native Americans used desert plants for their food, clothing, shelter, and medicine. Focus is on the three most important plants: Agave, Creosote, and Mesquite. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Friday, December 22, 2017

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – Desert Drug Store 45 Minutes

Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker to discover the Native American drugstore, the creosote bush. This is an easy walk around the visitor center garden. If the weather is bad, Abby will do a power point program in the Discovery Lab.

2:00 p.m. Walk ♿ -- Gifts Under the Trees 1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a free-spirited search for many delightful surprises that Nature has left under the desert trees in the Visitor Center garden. Awaken your sense of wonder in some holiday fun! Meet outside the Visitor Center.

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Friday, December 22, 2017 (continued)

- 4:00 p.m. Walk** ♿ – **Let's Be Crepuscular** **1 Hour**
You probably know “Nocturnal”, maybe “Diurnal”. Walk with Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for an easy walk near the Visitor Center at dusk to explore the fascinating and surprisingly active hour between the day and night. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, December 23, 2017

- 11:00 a.m. Walk** ♿ – **Garden Walk** **45 Minutes**
Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker as she takes you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover some of our special desert plants.
- 2:00 p.m.** ♿ – **Junior Rangers for Families** **1 Hour**
Families are welcome for this special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Bring water and hats for everyone for our walk outside.
- 7:00 p.m. Campfire** ♿ – **Animal Songs** **1 Hour**
Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for a lighthearted look at the sounds some of the Park animals make. You'll leave this interactive program with new appreciation for some of the Park animals and a song in your heart! Meet at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

Sunday, December 24, 2017

- 10:00 a.m. Walk** ♿ – **Rainbow Any Day** **1 Hour**
Even without rain, you can discover a rainbow of color in the desert. Join Park Interpretive Specialist, Regina Reiter, for a unique view nearby the Visitor Center, exploring how color occurs and reveals the details of the desert that we often only glimpse. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Monday, December 25, 2017

- 2:00 p.m. Walk** ♿ – **Gifts Under the Trees** **1 Hour**
Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a free-spirited search for delightful surprises under the trees in the Visitor Center garden. Awaken your sense of wonder and sharpen your skills of observation in some holiday fun! Meet outside the Visitor Center.

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

- 2:00 p.m. Talk** ♿ – **What Gives Ravens Their Star Quality?** **45 Minutes**
Enjoy finding out how the intelligence and personalities of ravens have inspired their starring role in myths and legends around the world. With volunteer naturalist Karen DeLorenzo you will discover a new way to look at these mischievous – and maybe even wise – birds.

Thursday, December 28, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. Hike** – **Badlands Bench with a View** **2 Hours**
Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund for a moderate 2 ½ mile hike up a badlands wash to a memorial bench with a marvelous view. Learn about some interesting plants and geological features along the way. Meet at the intersection of Inspiration Wash and S-22 by driving east on S-22 past mile marker 28 for 1/2 mile.

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Thursday, December 28, 2017 (continued)

9:00 a.m. Open Activity ♿ – **Discovery Lab Games** **3 Hours**

Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, will be in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab with activities and games for kids of all ages to entice you to love the desert. Come anytime between 9 and noon and join in the games.

2:00 p.m. Hike – Family Hike up a Bajada Wash **2 Hours**

Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for a fun family exploration hike along a wash in the bajada just behind the Visitor Center. Find animal homes, soft sand, and other desert wonders. Bring one liter of water per person, a hat, and sturdy shoes. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Friday, December 29, 2017

9:00 a.m. Open Activity ♿ – **Discovery Lab Games** **3 Hours**

Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, will be in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab with activities and games for kids of all ages to entice you to love the desert. Come anytime between 9 and noon and join in the games.

2:00 p.m. Hike – Family Hike up “Junior Ranger Mountain” **2 Hours**

Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for a fun exploration hike up her favorite mountain just behind the Visitor Center. Families are welcome. Bring one liter of water per person, a hat, and sturdy shoes. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, December 30, 2017

9:30 a.m. Talk/Walk ♿ – **Beaks and Feet** **1 Hour**

If you've always wanted to learn about birds but thought it's too complicated and only for birding experts, you'll enjoy this simple way of appreciating the birds! Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab for this hands-on discovery session and get a close look at birds in and around the Visitor Center. For bird lovers 8 and up with no previous birding experience necessary. Bring binoculars if you have them.

11:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – **Bighorn Sheep: Symbol of Desert Wilderness** **1 Hour**

Join Volunteer Naturalist Tony DeLorenzo to find out about bighorn sheep. Where did they come from? What is their history here in the desert? What are their prospects for the future?

1:00 p.m. Walk ♿ – **Garden Walk** **45 Minutes**

Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker as she takes you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover what is in bloom.

2:00 p.m. ♿ – **Junior Rangers** **1 Hour**

Special program for children ages 7-12 only. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

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Saturday, December 30, 2017 (continued)

7:00 p.m. Talk ♿ – **Desperate Times in the Desert Call for Desperate Measures!** **1 Hour**

Life in the desert can be pretty harsh, but many animals (and plants!) have pretty unique strategies for dealing with challenging conditions. Join Park Interpreter Sally Theriault as we discover some of their secrets of survival. Meet at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

9 p.m. Bike Ride – Borrego Badlands Moonlight Bike Ride **3 Hours**



After some brainstorming, Jim and Gary have mapped out the perfect route and are ready to lead a magical moonlight ride through the Borrego Badlands for experienced mountain bikers! We will start at Thimble Trail and make our way through the Badlands to the junction of Buttes Pass Road and Hwy 78. This is a strenuous 19-mile ride for experienced riders only; advance registration is required and space is limited. \$25 Public/\$20 ABF Members. Visit www.theabf.org/events or call Ashley for more details and to register: 760-767-0446 ext 1003.

Sunday, December 31, 2017

7:30 a.m. Walk – Bird Walk **1.5 Hours**

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.



11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – **Rainbow Any Day** **1 Hour**

Even without rain, you can discover a rainbow of color in the desert. Join Park Interpretive Specialist, Regina Reiter, for a unique view of the desert nearby the Visitor Center, exploring how color occurs and reveals the details of the desert that we often only glimpse. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

3:30 p.m. Walk ♿ – **Desert Inspiration** **1 Hour**

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a sensory exploration of the desert in word and color that will nourish your connection with the rugged beauty of the desert. You will be surprised how much keener and richer your desert observations are after this hands-on experience. Meet in front of the Visitor Center for this gentle walk to wrap up the year.

Monday, January 1, 2018

9:00 a.m. New Year's Day Resolution Hike – Hike Alcoholic Pass! **4 Hours**



Join Volunteer Naturalists Ron & Peg Poitras to experience and discover the prehistory, history, and present-day journey of those who have used this trail for food, water, work, and fun. This is a 4 hour excursion into the pass. Meet at the north end of DiGiorgio Road. This is a strenuous but relatively short hike, bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots.

2:00 p.m. Walk – Panorama Overlook **2.5 Hours**



Meet Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter at the Visitor Center to walk across the desert and up the Panorama Overlook Trail for good views of the Borrego Valley and Fonts Point. Wear sturdy shoes and bring at least one liter of water and a flashlight.

For more First Day hikes go to <https://www.parks.ca.gov/Events>

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DESERT SAFETY

- ✓ **Carry water AND drink it**
Saving your water for the hike back has led to death in Anza-Borrego. Drink plenty of water before you leave home, while you hike, and on the return route. If you feel thirsty, it is already too late. Drink lots of water and drink often.
- ✓ **Make sure your vehicle is desert-ready.**
Equip your vehicle for the desert. You should always carry extra water, a shade tarp, a shovel, a tire pump, and extra food.
- ✓ **Leave snakes alone.**
Many venomous snakes live in the desert. If you threaten them, they may strike. It is illegal to harass, catch, or kill any snake within Anza-Borrego. If bitten, remain calm and seek immediate medical attention.
- ✓ **Do not split up the group**
Stay together. Never leave anyone behind to rest.
- ✓ **Prepare yourself.**
In addition to carrying water, you should have protective clothing, sunscreen, a hat, a good map, food and a first aid kit which includes a comb and tweezers.
- ✓ **Have a plan.**
Leave all your trip information with a friend. Tell him/her your destination, the route you intend to follow, your expected return time, a description of your vehicle with license plate number, and the time by which he/she should notify park authorities in case you do not return.
- ✓ **When emergencies happen ...**
Stop. Stay calm. Seek shelter. If you are with your vehicle, remain there; do not leave it. Signal with mirrors, white cloth, whistle (three short blasts on a whistle, pause, then three more, repeat frequently), and put your hood up. It is much easier to find a vehicle in the desert than a person!!!

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