

## WILDFLOWERS!

March 22, 2019

Many areas in the park have great displays of wildflowers right now.

The **Visitor Center** and **Hellhole Canyon** areas are in bloom, with very nice patches of desert dandelion, phacelia, and other annuals, as well as glorious brittlebush and chuparosa shrubs.

Start early if you want to hike in **Borrego Palm Canyon**, as the parking lot fills up very quickly! If you miss out in the morning, try later in the afternoon. The **Alternate Trail** starts from the trail up to the campfire center, and is loaded with amazing amounts of a wide variety of flowers. Feet will get wet on the **Main Trail**, which stops just short of the palm grove, due to high water. Keep your eyes and ears open for bighorn sheep on both trails!

Drive north on **DiGiorgio Road** in Borrego Springs to see expansive fields of cheery yellow desert dandelions on private land. The dirt road extension into **Lower Coyote Canyon** is open to All-Wheel-Drive or 4WD vehicles only. There is room for 2WD parking at the end of the pavement. Flower seekers should walk up the dirt road for a wide variety of flowers, or explore to the EAST for a field of desert sunflowers and sand verbena. You might also find lupine, brown-eyed evening primrose, and dune primrose, as well as a few desert lilies. **PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY adjacent to the flower fields, and stay out of the citrus orchards. Do not drive or park on the private dirt road.**

**Henderson Canyon Road** (site of 2017's "SuperBloom"), has large swaths of purple sand verbena and white dune evening-primrose, with a nice bloom of yellow desert sunflowers starting to develop. Lots of parking, plus portable toilets and a wildflower information trailer.

Heading east on Highway S-22, there is a large pullout between miles 30 and 31 with room for parking. The vista includes fields of purple sand verbena, which is fading, as it is joined by desert sunflowers.

Just west of mile marker 35, park and walk into Arroyo Salado, Coachwhip Canyon, or Ella Wash. You'll find many flowers past their prime, but desert lilies and lupine are persisting here. **CAUTION: Dirt roads into the Borrego Badlands require four-wheel-drive!**

South-facing slopes above San Felipe Wash ("Texas Dip" on Borrego Springs Road just north of Highway 78) have extensive displays of yellow Parish's Poppy. **San Felipe Wash requires 4WD!**

The **Cactus Loop Trail**, across the road from Tamarisk Grove campground, has hillsides covered with poppies, along with a variety of small "belly flowers" growing low. Try Yaqui Well Trail also.

In the southern part of Anza-Borrego, **Little Blair Valley** (near mile marker 23) is in bloom. **June Wash** still has nice flowers, though many are past their peak. Park near mile marker 42 on Highway S-2 and walk up the wash (all-wheel-drive or 4WD vehicles can drive up the dirt road). The **Carrizo Badlands Overlook** (mile marker 52) is also worth checking, with a yellow variety of brown-eyed evening primrose and lots of lupine, as well as the entrance to **Carrizo Wash** (mm 48; 2WD vehicles should park on the pavement) and various pullouts along the highway.

For maps and directions, visit our website at [www.parks.ca.gov/anzaborrego](http://www.parks.ca.gov/anzaborrego).  
For updates on blooming areas, call our **Wildflower Hotline: 760-767-4684**.