



JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

TRIP PLANNER



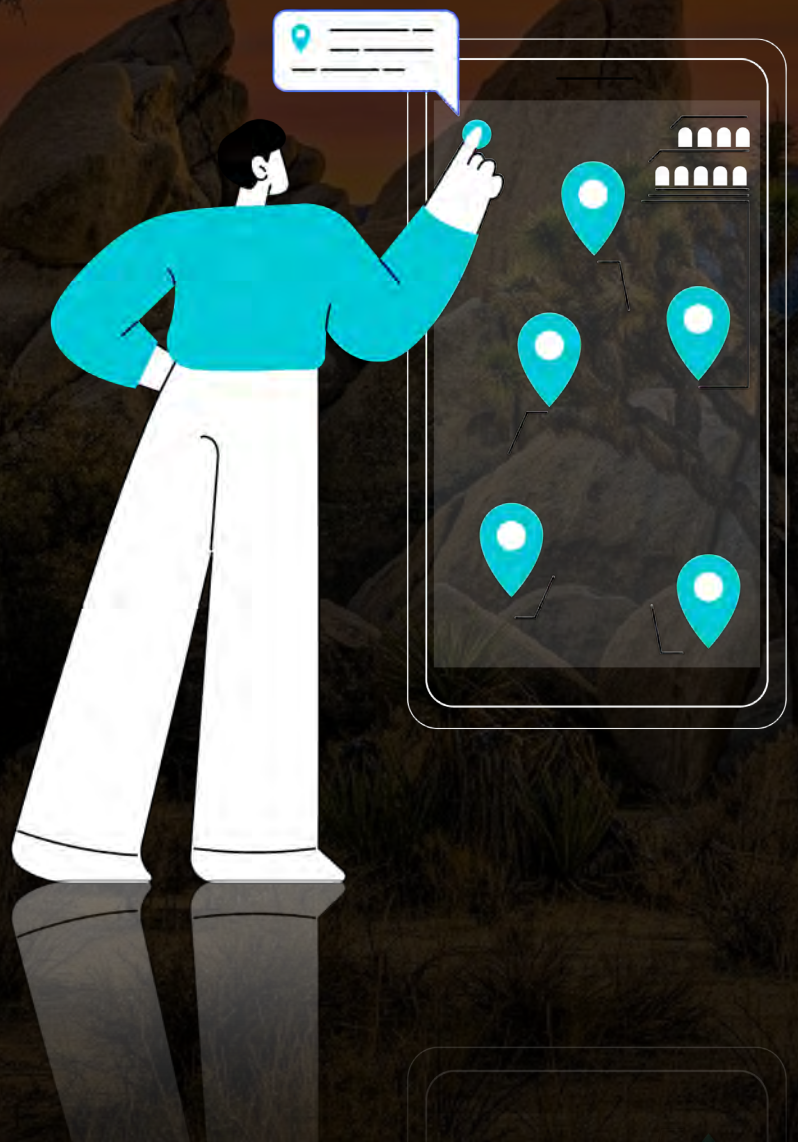
68+ Miles



2-3 Hours

TRIP PLANNER

- Where to Enter
- Must-See Points
- Best Hikes (Quick, Moderate, Long)
- Itineraries (One Day, Two Days)
- Where to Stay
- Know Before You Go
- Packing List



WHERE TO ENTER

**JOSHUA TREE
VISITOR CENTER**
(WEST ENTRANCE)

START

**OASIS
VISITOR CENTER**
(NORTH ENTRANCE)

START

START

**COTTONWOOD
VISITOR CENTER**
(SOUTH ENTRANCE)

Your self-guided tour supports all three entrances! Each entrance is available as a separate tour version.

Don't worry — all the versions have all the same stories, just tailored to each entrance. One is not better than any other!

Be sure to have all of the versions downloaded ahead of time because there's no signal once in the park.

MUST-SEE POINTS



Dedicated
Tour



Hidden Valley



Keys Ranch



Barker Dam

**JOSHUA TREE
VISITOR CENTER**
(WEST ENTRANCE)

START



Quail Mountain

**OASIS
VISITOR CENTER**
(NORTH ENTRANCE)

START



Arch Rock
Nature Trail

Keys View



Skull Rock



Split Rock
Loop Trail

START

**COTTONWOOD
VISITOR CENTER**
(SOUTH ENTRANCE)

Cholla Cactus
Garden



BEST HIKES



HIDDEN VALLEY
(Dedicated Tour)



Easy



1 Mile



30 Mins



BARKER DAM



Easy



1.3 Miles



30 Mins



**ARCH ROCK
TRAIL**



Easy



1.2 Miles



30 Mins



**SPLIT ROCK
LOOP TRAIL**



Easy



2.4 Miles



1 Hour



**RYAN
MOUNTAIN**



Moderate



3 Miles



2 Hours



**LOST HORSE
MINE**



Moderate



6.3 Miles



3 Hours

ITINERARIES

You can enjoy the park at your own pace with the self-guided audio tour from Action Tour Guide.

This flexible tour can be completed in one day or spread over multiple days. Since it is valid for one year and offers unlimited usage, you don't have to worry about seeing everything in one visit.

ONE-DAY ITINERARY:

- Start your day by entering the park early in the morning. Make sure the app and tour inside are downloaded before you leave your stay. (There is basically no signal at the park).
- When you reach your desired entrance to the park, hit the 'Start' button on the app to begin the tour at the entrance. Just follow the route line and the audio plays automatically.
- Drive along the Park and stop at the Must-See points. (marked in the tour as "Must-See"):
 - Quail Mountain
 - Hidden Valley Nature Trail
 - Keys View
 - Skull Rock
 - Split Rock Loop Trail
 - Arch Rock Nature Trail
 - Cholla Garden
 - Keys Ranch
 - Barker Dam
- Enjoy a picnic lunch at one of the designated picnic areas like the Hidden Valley. For more insights and a guided experience of Hidden Valley, check out the tour available at ActionTourGuide.com.
- Plan a few hikes (see Hikes section).
- If you are looking to exit from the park from the South Entrance (Cottonwood Visitor Center), you can take a leisurely stroll through the Cholla Cactus Garden to admire the dense concentration of cacti. This area is particularly beautiful during "golden hour" (the hour before sunset).

TWO-DAY ITINERARY:

- **Day 1:** Follow the one-day itinerary mentioned above. As mentioned there as well, please make sure you have the app and tour set up before you get to the entrance.
- **Day 1 night:** Return to the park at night to view the night sky. Joshua Tree is a designated Dark Sky park with stunning views of the stars.
 - Hidden Valley
 - Sky's The Limit Observatory and Nature Center
 - Keys View
 - Cap Rock
- **Day 2:** Return to the park to embark on 2-3 medium hikes or one long hike (see Hikes section).
- Leave the park early in the afternoon so you can enjoy the Palms Springs tour. Check out the tour available at [ActionTourGuide.com](https://www.actiontourguide.com).

WHERE TO STAY



PALM SPRINGS

Located about an hour's drive from Joshua Tree's West Entrance, Palm Springs is a vibrant city known for its resorts, golf courses, and shopping. It's perfect for those driving in from LA. We have a driving tour here, check it out at [ActionTourGuide.com](https://www.actiontourguide.com).

TWENTYNINE PALMS

Situated near the North Entrance, Twentynine Palms provides a variety of lodging options and easy park access.

JOSHUA TREE TOWN

Located adjacent to the park's West Entrance, Joshua Tree Town offers a bohemian atmosphere with art galleries, unique shops, and cozy cafes, perfect for visitors aiming to start their park adventure early.

INDIO

Near the park's southern entrance, Indio offers diverse lodging, dining, and entertainment options. Known for the Coachella Festival, it's a great base for exploring the Cottonwood Spring entrance of Joshua Tree National Park.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



ENTRANCE FEES: Requires a park pass, which is not included in the self-guided tour. [Review pass options.](#)



RESERVATION: Reservations are required in most campgrounds, which is not included in the self-guided tour. [Reserve here before your trip.](#)



OPERATING HOURS: Open 24 Hours. Year-Round. [Learn more.](#)



ROAD CLOSURES: Unexpected weather or construction incidents can affect roads. While the tour is updated frequently to include detours, it cannot reflect up-to-the-minute updates. [Check before you leave.](#)



PARK RULES AND SAFETY: Stay on designated trails, camp in designated areas, and respect wildlife and natural resources by following the [Camping Rules and Regulations](#). Follow all NPS [Laws and Policies](#). Be familiar with the park's [Safety Guidelines](#).

PACKING LIST



Binoculars



Extra Layers



First Aid Kit



Snacks



Portable Charger



Phone Holder



Gas



Sunscreen



Water



Hiking Boots