

# Living Hike List

## Sun City Palm Desert Hiking Club

Current through May 2025

This document describes all hikes that have been conducted by the Sun City Palm Desert Hiking club throughout the last thirteen hike seasons, beginning in October 2012 and covering all hikes up through April 2025. The descriptions have been cut and pasted from the club's monthly hike schedules. Because many popular hikes were repeated during this period, the description is a blend comprising the most relevant sections from all previous years. It is a living document that is updated at the end of the hiking season.

The carpool fees previously listed for each hike have been removed from this edition, since carpool fees are now revalued based on current gas cost and are available on the Hiking Club website.

For user convenience, this document begins with an index of all hikes provided in the list, annotated with the degree of difficulty of the hike. Both the index and the list itself are organized alphabetically by hike title within categories from Ferranti's Great Hikes series.

A companion document, the SCPDCA Hike Archive, also available on the Hiking Club website, covers hikes conducted during the 2008 thru 2011 hike seasons that have not been repeated more recently. This companion document can be used by hike leaders as suggestions for future hikes. It is apparent, for instance, that some excellent treks are no longer being led. Peaks along the desert divide, sections of the Pacific Crest Trail, and seldom visited areas of the Mecca Hills are examples of hikes that might be revisited.

## Index of Hikes

The list below gives the names of hikes given in the hike-description section further below. Degree of hike difficulty is given ahead of the hike name, using the following abbreviations:

- E means EASY
- EM means EASY/MODERATE
- M means MODERATE
- MA means MODERATE/ADVANCED
- A means ADVANCED

### MECCA HILLS/BOX CANYON

- E BURNT SIENNA CUTOFF/BIG COLORFUL CANYON
- MA CHALK CANYON LADDERS, THOMAS CANYON
- EM COFFEE BEAN CANYON
  - A COFFEE BEAN CANYON/MECCA HILL
  - M HIDDEN SPRINGS LOOP
  - M LADDER CANYON, ALL LADDERS
  - M LADDER CANYON, BIG PAINTED CANYON LOOP
  - M LITTLE BOX CANYON/MECCACOPIA JEEP TRAIL (Key Exchange)
- EM LITTLE PAINTED CANYON WALKABOUT
- E LITTLE UTAH CANYON OVERLOOK
- M MECCACOPIA/LITTLE BOX CANYON LOOP
- M PYRAMID CANYON

## COACHELLA VALLEY PRESERVE

- A ANTENNAE HILL FROM BISKRA OASIS
- EM BEAR CANYON
- E/EM BEE ROCK MESA RIDGE LOOP
- M BEYOND MOON COUNTRY
- M BISKRA PALMS OASIS
- EM BISKRA OASIS - MACOMBER GROVE
- M HERMAN'S PEAK
- MA HERMAN'S PEAK WILLIS PALMS LOOP
- MA HERMAN'S PEAK AND WILLIS PALMS
- EM HIDDEN PALMS
- M HORSESHOE PALMS
- M HORSESHOE & HIDDEN PALMS
- M HORSESHOE & PUSHAWALLA PALMS (From Coyote Song Way)
- M HUFF 'N PUFF (See RESEVOIR RIDGE)
- E INDIAN PALMS
- E INDIO HILLS WALKABOUT (Key Exchange)
- E McCALLUM GROVE OASIS (From Visitors Center)
- M McCALLUM TRAIL AND GROVE; Special Photography Hike
- E McCALLUM TRAIL AND GROVES; Special Interpretive Hike
- M MACOMBER PALM OASIS
- E/EM MOON COUNTRY LOOP & CANYON TRAIL
- M MOON COUNTRY - NORTHERN APPROACH
- E MOON COUNTRY - KEY EXCHANGE
- M MT. BERRINGER
- MA OASIS QUARTET
- E PRESERVE OVERVIEW
- M PUSHAWALLA CANYON NORTH
- M PUSHAWALLA CANYON SOUTH
- M PUSHAWALLA CANYON SOUTH ENTRY
- M PUSHAWALLA CANYON (from Preserve Visitor Center)
- MA PUSHAWALLA CANYON KEY EXCHANGE
- A PUSHAWALLA RIDGE, DOLLAR ROAD, PUSHAWALLA CANYON
- M/MA RESERVOIR RIDGE (aka HUFF & PUFF)
- MA RESERVOIR RIDGE LOOP-D-LOOP
- M RIPARIAN HIKE
- EM SAND DUNES OFF 38TH STREET
- E SMOKETREE TRAIL / HIDDEN PALMS & INDIAN PALMS
- E SMOKETREE TRAIL / SQUAW HILL
- E SQUAW HILL & INDIAN PALMS
- E WILDFLOWER ADVENTURE THRU COACHELLA VALLEY PRESERVE
- E/EM WILLIS PALMS

## DESERT CITIES

M/MA	ART SMITH TRAIL
A	ART SMITH, HOPALONG CASSIDY, HOMESTEAD TRAILS
A	ART SMITH, HAHN BUENA VISTA, WILD HORSE, ARABY TRAILS
EM	BEAR CREEK CANYON OVERLOOK
MA/A	BEAR CREEK CANYON RIDGE/OASIS
EM	BEAR CREEK URBAN TRAIL
E	BERDOO CANYON
EM	BOO HOFF AND BEAR CREEK TRAIL LOOP
A	BOO HOFF/MORROW TRAIL LOOP
A	BOO HOFF TRAIL TO VISTA POINT
M/MA	BUMP & GRIND
M	BUMP & GRIND BY MOONLIGHT
E	BUTLER-ABRAMS TRAIL
E/EM/M	CARRIZO CANYON
EM	CARRIZO & DEAD INDIAN CANYONS BIG HORN SHEEP ADVENTURE
MA	CATHEDRAL CANYON - DUNN ROAD LOOP
MA	CHOCOLATE DROP & FLAG PEAK LOOP TRAIL
E	COACHELLA VALLEY WILD BIRD CENTER
E	COVE TO CAVE LOOKOUT
MA.	COVE TO LAKE: see MORROW TRAIL
M	CROSS (THE) VIA GABBY HAYES AND HOPALONG CASSIDY TRAILS
M	CROSS (THE) VIA HOMESTEAD TRAIL
E	DEAD INDIAN CANYON, BIG HORN SHEEP ADVENTURE
M	EAST INDIO HILLS BADLANDS
E	ED HASTEY TRAIL
M	EISENHOWER PEAK LOOP
EM	FOX CANYON LOOP
MA	HERB JEFFRIES TRAIL
E	HIDDEN CANYON
EM	INDIO HILLS WALKABOUT
MA	LA QUINTA COVE TO QUARRY GOLF COURSE OVERLOOK
E	LIVING DESERT MESA FLOOR LOOP
A	LONG CANYON TRAIL
MA	MORROW TRAIL (COVE TO LAKE)
M	RANCHO MIRAGE LOOP
E/EM	RANDALL HENDERSON TRAIL
EM	RAVEN HILL LOOP
A	ROCK (THE)
EM	SALTON SEA BAT CAVES
E	SALTON SEA/DOS PALMAS DISCOVERY ADVENTURE
EM	SHADOW LAKE & CROSS
A	SHADOW MOUNTAIN
EM	SUN CITY CANYON
E	SUN CITY WALK
M	TERRA LAGO RESERVOIR
E	TWO BUNCH PALMS
E	WIND FARM ENERGY TOUR

## **PALM SPRINGS AND INDIAN CANYONS**

E ANDREAS CANYON  
M ARABY TRAIL  
MA ARABY, BERNS, SHANNON, EARL HENDERSON TRAILS  
A CATHEDRAL CANYON/WILD HORSE/GARSTIN TRAILS  
M CAHUILLA CANYON TRAIL  
E/M EARL HENDERSON TRAIL  
MA EAST FORK/VANDEVENTER TRAILS  
MA FERN CANYON/VANDEVENTER LOOP  
MA GARSTIN-BOGART LOOP  
MA GARSTIN-SHANNON-EARL HENDERSON LOOP  
M JANE'S HOFFBRAU OASIS LOOP TRAIL  
MA LYKKEN TRAIL (NORTH), KEY EXCHANGE  
A LYKKEN (NORTH)/MUSEUM TRAIL  
A LYKKEN (NORTH)/SKYLINE TRAIL  
MA LYKKEN (SOUTH) TRAIL  
M MURRAY CANYON TRAIL  
A MURRAY HILL (PEAK)  
MA MURRAY HILL FOOTHILLS  
E PALM AND ANDREAS CANYONS  
E/EM PALM CANYON  
E PALM CANYON RIVER WALK  
M PALM CANYON/VICTOR TRAIL LOOP  
E PALM SPRINGS HISTORICAL WALK  
MA STONE POOLS TRAIL  
EM TAHQUITZ CANYON  
EM VICTOR TRAIL  
M VICTOR/FERN CANYON LOOP

## **SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS**

A BLACK MOUNTAIN  
A CEDAR SPRINGS  
A DEVIL'S SLIDE TRAIL  
A DEVIL'S SLIDE TO TAHQUITZ CREEK  
M ERNIE MAXWELL TRAIL  
M ERNIE MAXWELL TRAIL (From South End)  
A LION PEAK, PINE MOUNTAIN #2, PYRAMID PEAK  
EM MOUNT SAN JACINTO TRAM TOUR  
A RAMONA TRAIL TO TOOLBOX SPRING  
A RED TAHQUITZ PEAK  
A ROUND VALLEY/TAMARACK VALLEY LOOP  
EM SNOW CREEK  
A SPITLER PEAK (VIA FOBES TRAIL)  
A SUICIDE ROCK  
A TAHQUITZ PEAK, SOUTH RIDGE TRAIL  
A TAHQUITZ PEAK, VIA DEVIL'S SLIDE OR SOUTH RIDGE TRAILS

## **SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS**

- A CACTUS SPRINGS
- E CAHUILLA TEWANET
- A HAYSTACK MOUNTAIN
- MA HORSETHIEF CREEK
- A MARTINEZ MOUNTAIN
- E SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS WALKABOUT
- A SAWMILL TRAIL
- A SAWMILL TRAIL/SANTA ROSA MOUNTAIN
- E WAGON WHEEL CATTLE TRAIL

## **JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, MOJAVE DESERT**

- E BARKER DAM & WALL STREET MILL
- MA BOY SCOUT TRAIL
- MA BURRO TRAIL
- A CAREY'S CASTLE & MINE
- E COTTONWOOD SPRINGS BAJADA NATURE TRAIL WALK
- A DESERT QUEEN/SPLIT ROCK LOOP
- EM HALL OF HORRORS, SKULL ROCK
- M HIDDEN VALLEY - INSIDE OUT; Special Photography Hike
- E KEYS RANCH TOUR, HIDDEN VALLEY HIKE
- A LITTLE BERDOO PEAK, BERNARD PEAK
- MA LOST HORSE LOOP
- MA LOST PALMS OASIS
- EM LUCKY BOY VISTA & DESERT QUEEN MINE
- E MASTODON PEAK
- A MAZE (THE)
- MA/A PANORAMA LOOP
- MA PEAK 5162
- E PINE CITY AND DESERT QUEEN MINE
- MA PUSHAWALLA PASS/PLATEAU
- A QUEEN MOUNTAIN SCRAMBLE
- MA RYAN MOUNTAIN TRAIL
- E SPLIT ROCK BOULDER PANORAMA
- A STUBBE SPRINGS LOOP
- MA TWO PEAKS, RYAN MOUNTAIN, MASTODON PEAK
- MA WEST SIDE LOOP
- MA WILLOW HOLE
- MA WONDERLAND WANDER
- M WILLIE BOY'S GRAVE

## **SAN GORGONIO PASS AND NEARBY**

- E/EM BIG MORONGO CANYON PRESERVE
- MA BIG MORONGO PRESERVE SIX PACK
- A CHAPARROSSA PEAK
- M CHAPARROSSA SPRING
- A DRY LAKE
- A MANZANITA SPRINGS
- M MISSION CREEK PRESERVE

E	OAK GLEN FALL COLORS
EM	OLSEN RUINS
MA	PIPES CANYON LOOP
MA	PIPES CANYON TO CHAPARROSA PEAK
EM	RAINBOW ROCKS
E	RED DOME
E/EM	REDWOODS, TRI-TIP LUNCH and HOT APPLE PIE! (A.K.A., APPLE RANCH YUM YUM TRAIL!)
MA	SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS MINI LOOP
E	TOUTAIN MOUNTAIN
EM	WHITEWATER CANYON VIEW LOOP
M	WHITEWATER CANYON VIEW TO RED ROCK
M/MA	WHITEWATER PCT SOUTH & CANYON VIEW & SOUND OF MUSIC
M	WHITEWATER RIVER CANYON TO RED DOME
M / A	WHITEWATER TO MISSION CREEK KEY EXCHANGES

### **OROCOPIA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS/CHUCKWALLA MOUNTAINS**

E	OBSIDIAN BUTTE, MUD VOLCANOES, SONNY BONO WILDLIFE/BIRD REFUGE & SALVATION MOUNTAIN
A	RED CLOUD AND GREAT WESTERN MINE TOUR

### **ANZA-BORREGO STATE PARK**

M	BORREGO PALM CANYON
M	CALCITE MINE
EM/M	HELLHOLE CANYON
MA	TRAVERTINE PALMS OASIS

### **PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ADVENTURES**

MA	EAGLE ROCK via PCT
EM	EIGHTH WONDER OF THE NATURAL WORLD
MA	TULE TRUCK TRAIL TO CHIHUAHUA VALLEY ROAD KEY EXCHANGE
A	SOUTH OF HWY. 74
M	NORTH OF HWY. 74
A	HWY. 74 TO JO POND TRAILHEAD KEY EXCHANGE
MA	PACIFIC CREST TRAIL SOUTH FROM SNOW CREEK
A	SNOW CREEK VILLAGE TO WHITEWATER PRESERVE

### **OTHERS**

A	SIERRA PEAK (Corona)
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# Hike Descriptions

Hikes are organized alphabetically within the area categories used by Phil Ferranti in his "Great Hikes" series.

## MECCA HILLS/BOX CANYON

### BURNT SIENNA CUTOFF/ BIG COLORFUL CANYON

**EASY:** 4 miles; gain: 300 feet; area, Mecca Hills; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes

**Date & leaders of most recent hike:** January 31, 2020, Heather Gehring/Phillip Ferranti  
Enjoy another Mecca Hills area hike with guest hike leader, Phillip Ferranti. Phillip is a recognized local expert on hiking in our area and has written a very useful book called "140 Great Hikes In and Near Palm Springs". Phillip will show us interesting mineral rock formations and canyon scenery, plus a special-\* "secret side canyon"! Poles are always a good idea, plus an extra layer of clothing.

### CHALK CANYON LADDERS, THOMAS CANYON

**MODERATE/ADVANCED:** 5 miles; gain: 900 feet; area, Painted Canyon/Mecca Hills; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes

**Date & leaders of most recent hike:** January 5, 2015, Nina & Lee Thomas

We will park, as usual, at the end of Painted Canyon Road (the 5 mile dirt road). After climbing the 2 ladders in Big Painted Canyon we soon enter Chalk Canyon and the beginning of this new loop and 4 ladders where we will experience challenging rock/boulder scrambling. This portion is an enjoyable narrow wash with a few areas where we will be climbing several feet on rocky walls without a ladder. After coming out on the ridge at 1,455 feet we will enjoy a snack and the views of the surrounding Mecca Hills. On the return loop portion we will trek over and around a small ridge to reach a gully that takes us down a very rocky shoot which becomes the Thomas Canyon eventually connecting to Chalk Canyon, thus completing the loop. We will climb down the familiar last 2 ladders and the .75 mile walk in the wash back to our cars.

GLOVES AND LOTS OF WATER ARE A MUST! POLES ARE OPTIONAL AND CAMERAS MAKEIT FUN!

### COFFEE BEAN CANYON

**EASY/MODERATE:** 6.2 miles; gain, 200 feet: area, Mecca Hills; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes

**Date & leader of most recent hike:** January 12, 2018, Ken Linville

The canyon that we will be trekking into at an easy pace is aptly named Coffee Bean Canyon by Philip Ferranti, author of local hiking books and previous speaker. The first 0.8 miles of this hike are on the protection levee of the Coachella Canal before entering, what starts out as a wide canyon. As we precede up the Canyon it narrows down to about 100 feet wide with very steep colored side walls including sections of a dark coffee bean color. Good hike to shoot photos.

## **COFFEE BEAN CANYON/MECCA HILL**

**ADVANCED: 10 miles; gain, 800/1600 feet; area, Mecca Hills; duration of hike, 6 hours; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 20, 2016, Ray Cheeney**

This hike is aptly named to reflect the unique color and texture of the soil through and around the canyon. We will encounter interesting soil and rock formations that accent the canyon as it winds in a serpentine fashion which opens out into a vista of open canyons and foothills. The elusive 1,600 foot high Mecca Hill lies directly to the North and with time prevailing we may attempt to seek an alternative route to its summit.

## **HIDDEN SPRINGS LOOP**

**MODERATE: Length, 5 miles, gain, 400 feet; area, Mecca Hills; duration of hike, 3 - 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: March 29, 2021, Burt Falk**

**Prev: Ray Cheeney & Burt Falk**

We'll begin at the trailhead on Box Canyon Road, five miles beyond Painted Canyon turnoff. Proceeding southeasterly up a short canyon, we'll climb a low ridge, and then descend with a view of Sheep Hole Oasis to our left. We'll then hike easterly up an approximate mile-long wash leading into an ever narrowing canyon until we turn left up a side canyon, leading to Hidden Oasis. We'll then climb a short but steep nose and hike parallel to but above the canyon in which Grotto #1 is located and drop down to access Grotto #1. (A hike option returns back down to the main canyon and hikes along it to Grotto #1.) We'll enter Grotto #1 and stop for a snack break, and optionally venture into the dark and difficult depths of the Grotto (flashlight or headlamp required). After exiting the Grotto, we continue back to our vehicles by way of Grotto #2 and Sheep Hole Oasis. Snacks and water are a must!

## **LADDER CANYON, ALL LADDERS**

**MODERATE: 2.5 miles; gain 900 feet; area, Mecca Hills; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 17, 2018, Nina & Lee Thomas**

Come visit this famous Canyon and the ladders with us! This Ladder Canyon experience will be a bit different in that we will climb up the ladders to the top of the ridge then hike the short distance down to the large cairn just below for a rest and snacks. We will then proceed back the same ladders we came up on and the final .25 mile trek to our cars. There is some rock scrambling and, of course, the ladders. We will not be hiking through Big Painted Canyon so this is a shorter climbing/hiking experience! All fun! All ladders! GLOVES AND LOTS OF WATER ARE A MUST! POLES ARE OPTIONAL AND CAMERAS MAKE IT FUN!

## **LADDER CANYON, BIG PAINTED CANYON LOOP**

**MODERATE: 5 miles; gain, 750 feet; area, Mecca Hills; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 2025, Beverly Hackett**

**Prev: Kevin Rivette, Robert Heckert, Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel, Nina/Lee Thomas**

This is a unique experience if you haven't done it. The slot canyons are fantastic. There are ladders to climb and art on the canyon walls. We will park at the end of Painted Canyon Road (the 5-mile dirt road). The Loop begins in a spacious, sandy canyon and gets progressively narrower as it goes on. There's a rockfall that you'll have to climb. Look for a small cave and a

stairway that indicate the entrance to the canyon's narrower section as you make your way through the rocky terrain. As you continue, you will have to climb the ladders. Although Ladder Canyon is narrow, it is wide enough to hike through. The canyon opens as you ascend higher, offering sky views above. At the top we will enjoy spectacular views of the Salton Sea Basin and the surrounding Mecca Hills while we rest and have a snack. We will then continue for a mile to the steep but short drop down into Big Painted Canyon. The geology of this area is amazing and colorful! We will stop for pictures at this point before proceeding to the last 2 ladders partially formed from the rocks that will provide our descent to the remaining slots and 0.75 mile walk to our starting point. **THIS HIKE IS NOT FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNCOMFORTABLE CLIMBING UP AND DOWN TALL LADDERS AND BEING IN NARROW PLACES. THERE IS ALSO SOME BUTT-SCOOTING REQUIRED, SO WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING. PLEASE ASSESS YOUR COMFORT LEVELS CAREFULLY. GLOVES, POLES, AND PLENTY OF WATER RECOMMENDED. BRING CAMERAS!**

### **LITTLE BOX CANYON/MECCACOPIA JEEP TRAIL (Key Exchange)**

**MODERATE: 6 miles; gain, 800 feet; area, Mecca Hills; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 50 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: October 14, 2019| Monday morn hike&bagel gang**  
One group will start at Meccacopia Trailhead on Box Canyon Highway, 1.6 miles beyond the Little Box Canyon Trailhead, where the second group will start.

### **LITTLE PAINTED CANYON WALKABOUT**

**EASY/MODERATE: 4 – 8 miles; gain, 300 -1,200 feet; area, Mecca Hills; duration of hike, 2-6 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: April 23, 2018, Monday morn hike&bagel gang; Prev: Burt Falk**

This is an easy, moderate or advanced hike, depending on how far you choose to continue. Starting at the Ladder Canyon Parking Lot, we'll proceed 2 easy miles up beautiful Little Painted Canyon, at which point we'll start exploring side canyons. You may turn around at any point and head back down the canyon to your car. Virtually impossible to get lost.

### **LITTLE UTAH CANYON OVERLOOK**

**EASY: 3.5 miles, gain, 300 feet; area: Mecca Hills/Box Canyon; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: April, 2024, Laurie & Mark McCulley**

This colorful area is reminiscent of the low hills in southern Utah, with a similar reddish soil. We begin through a heavily flash-flooded Big Utah Canyon, then climb 300 feet to the top of the mesa where we can walk around and enjoy the spectacular valley/Mecca Hills views. Wildflowers should be great at this time of year. Hiking poles helpful.

**GUEST LEADER VERSION OF HIKE: Date&Leaders of most recent hike: December, 2019, Heather Gehring/Phillip Ferranti; Prev: Nina & Lee Thomas/Philip Ferranti**

Philip Ferranti will be our guest leader on this walkabout in Utah Canyon. Phillip is a recognized local expert on hiking in our area and has written a very useful book called "140 Great Hikes in and near Palm Springs". We begin through a heavily flash-flooded Big Utah Canyon, then climb 300 feet to the top of the mesa where we can walk around and enjoy the spectacular valley/Mecca Hills views. Philip promises an "exotic geological vista" with explanations on this hike, so bring your cameras. Hiking poles helpful.

## **MECCACOPIA/LITTLE BOX CANYON LOOP**

**MODERATE: 7.5 miles; gain, 800 feet; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike: March 2014, Burt Falk; Prev: Burt Falk**

This hike begins at the Meccacopia Trailhead on Box Canyon Highway, 1.6 miles beyond the ending trailhead at Painted Canyon. We will, therefore, need to leave a car at the latter to transport drivers to the former after the hike.

## **PYRAMID CANYON**

**MODERATE: 4 miles; gain, 0 feet; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 40 minutes**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike: December 2022, Myrna Harris/Phil Ferranti**

Hike into "Pyramid Canyon" in the Mecca Hills, with dramatic rock formations and flash flood erosion. Interesting "surprise" geological ending to the hike.

## **COACHELLA VALLEY PRESERVE**

### **ANTENNAE HILL FROM BISKRA OASIS**

**ADVANCED: 6 miles; gain, 2000 feet; area, Indio Hills; duration of hike, 5 hours; drive time one way; 20 minutes over rough road**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 29, 2013, Burt Falk**

Cross-country up the southeastern slopes of the Indio Hills to reach the antenna-filled summit overlooking Sun City Palm Desert. Bring your cell phones so you can call your spouse, who, with binoculars, will be able to see you standing on the top.

### **BEAR CANYON**

**EASY/MODERATE: 4 miles; gain, 300 feet; area, North of Sun City; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike: March 2024, Beverly Hackett & Warner Paige**

We will drive from SCPD to the end of Coyote Song way, the street that borders the north side of Sun City, and travel part way up a dirt road toward the gate in front of the water tank road. We will park on the road and hike north up through some very scenic and beautiful washes, otherwise known as Bear Canyon, for about two miles. We should be treated to lots of evidence of a beautiful wildflower bloom. This is a wonderful desert hike with spectacular views of the Coachella Valley and Sun City from high up in the wash. Hiking sticks are recommended for this hike.

### **BEE ROCK MESA RIDGE LOOP**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3 miles; gain, 400 feet; duration of hike, 3 hours; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; drive time one way, 15 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: February 2025, Don Bailey**

**Prev: Don Bailey, MonMornHk&BagelGang, Burt Falk, Ernie Manson**

These hikes are among the nicest in the Valley, and are only 15 minutes away. They both start at the trail head in the Coachella Preserve Visitors Parking Lot and traverse southeasterly across the Thousand Palms Road and follow the trail to the Bee Rock Mesa Ridge. The trail has some steep sections, and a short section with dropoffs on both sides, as it ascends the top of the ridge with ever changing views leading to a 360 degree view, including looking down upon Sun City. The Salton Sea and our mountain ranges are on the horizon and

our valley is spread below.

**1. North Loop:** a branch in the trail leads northerly off the ridge to a flat area west of Pushawilla Canyon and returns to the trailhead through a wash at the foot of the northerly slope of Bee Rock Mesa Ridge. There are some steps over rocks where the trail was eroded by Tropical Storm Hillary.

**2. South Loop:** after the branch to the North Loop, the trail then descends southerly to Bee Rock Mesa where it returns to the start along the edge of the Horseshoe Palms grove in the lower canyon wash. This is a bit harder than the north return loop because it is a bit longer and at the three-quarter point, we have a steep climb out of the lower valley.

For a hiker with no vertigo, fear of heights, or balance issues these would be easy hikes. A very short distance on this trail is narrow, falling off on both sides. Do not do this hike without poles if you have any of these issues. Most of our members have done this hike, and would have no problems. But if you have guests be realistic before bringing them. Footwear with good tread is necessary, as is plenty of water.

## **BEYOND MOON COUNTRY**

**MODERATE: 5 miles; gain, 800 feet; area, C.V. Preserve; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 30, 2015, Ross Vanderputten**

This is a newly discovered trail through washes and ridges west and beyond the regular Moon Valley trails out of the CVP Visitors Center. We will follow the washes and climb some loose rock gullies to ridges overlooking Sky Valley and Coachella Valley. Hikers need to be aware and be able to handle gullies and ridges that are not well established trails that will require some amount of scrambling on loose rocks and sand.

## **BISKRA OASIS - MACOMBER GROVE**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3.5 miles; gain, 300 feet; area, C.V. Preserve; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: Feb 8, 2021, Laura Marshall**

Get to know your local oases! This adventure, consisting of two separate hikes, will leisurely explore the Macomber Grove and the Biskra Oasis, both of which are located on the nearby San Andreas Fault. First, after driving our vehicles on a gravel utility road about a mile beyond the end of Coyote Song Rd, we'll hike--via a road unsuitable for non-4 wheel drive, low clearance vehicles-- to Biskra Oasis, which in the 1920s was the site of a proposed resort community. After exploring the Briska (named after a famous spring and town in Algeria), we will then drive back toward Sun City P.D. to hike up another Jeep-only road, to the smaller Macomber Grove. Hiking poles and cameras are strongly suggested as the views south and west to the snow topped mountains are beautiful. Some desert vegetation has begun to bloom. Low profile vehicles not suitable for getting to the start of the hike.

## **BISKRA PALMS OASIS**

**MODERATE: 4 miles; gain: 300 feet; area, Indio Hills; duration of hike, 3 hours, drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: February 14, 2019, Jack Madden**

Biskra Palms is the oasis we see looking eastward from SCPD. We will begin the hike approximately a mile in along a gravel road running easterly from the end of Coyote Song Way, the street that borders the north side of Sun City. We will park on the road and hike northeast up through some very scenic and pretty desert. There are a couple of smaller oases along our

route that follow the San Andreas fault system. At Biskra Palms, the San Andreas Fault splits into the Banning and Mission Creek branches of that fault. This is a wonderful desert hike with spectacular views of the Coachella Valley and Sun City from high up in the oasis. Hiking sticks and cameras are suggested for this hike.

### **HERMAN'S PEAK**

**MODERATE: 5.5 miles; gain, 1000 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 2024, Don Bailey**

**Prev: Don Bailey, Pat Fonstad, Mike Gittleman**

**NOT A HIKE FOR BEGINNERS.** This is an out-and-back hike with the trail starting at the Thousand Palms Oasis, following a drainage wash west for about a mile and a half and then climbing a set of switchbacks over the course of a mile to an elevation of approximately 1300 ft at Herman's Peak. After a very scenic break at the peak, with its 360 degree views of our valley and mountains, we will retrace our steps and descend into the Moon Country wash and return to Thousand Palms Oasis. This is a wonderful desert hike with spectacular views of the Coachella Valley. (Can also be done by using the Moon Country Trail to reach, and perhaps circle, McCallum Pond on the inbound or outbound leg, instead of using the wash; hike distance of 6 Miles then makes it a MODERATE/ADVANCED hike.) Hiking sticks are recommended; bring plenty of water; and maybe a camera.

### **HERMAN'S PEAK WILLIS PALMS LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 8 miles; gain, 900 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 4 to 5 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 2024, Don Bailey;**

**Prev: Don Bailley, Monday morn hike&bagel gang, Falk/Linville/Manson, Jack Madden**

This is a wonderful early morning desert hike that encompasses most of the major trails in the western portion of the CVP. This is not a hike for beginners. **In fact, if heights bother you, skip this hike.** Otherwise, this is a terrific desert hike with spectacular 360 degree views of the Coachella Valley. The trail starts at the Thousand Palms Oasis and follows a dried creek bed west for about 1 ½ miles (an option is to hike to the McCallum Pond and circle it if it is open, then take the Moon Country trail across the wash) and then climbs up the switch backs to an elevation of 1300 ft at Herman's Peak with its 360 degree views of our valley and mountains. After a scenic (lunch) break at the peak, we will descend to the south side of the Peak and connect into the Willis Palm Oasis trail. We will cross over Thousand Palms Canyon road and hike back to the Thousand Palms Oasis along the lesser-used Hidden Palms/Willis Palms trails. We will be hiking along a stream that carries groundwater from two oasis at CVP. If you were to take only one CVP hike this year, this is the "grand everything" hike to take. This hike can be taken in reverse as well. Water is mandatory, hiking sticks are recommended, and you may want to bring your camera. Know your limits. This is a great hike but it has 900 feet of elevation gain, most of which gain is during a short distance of the hike. And it is a full 7.5 miles.

### **HERMAN'S PEAK AND WILLIS PALMS**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 5.5 miles; gain, 1000 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 23, 2016, Roger Dolliff**

Shortly after we leave Willis Palms parking area we start a long gradual 1,000 foot assent to Herman's Peak. This peak is the highest trail hike in the Preserve and offers magnificent 360

degree views of the valley down to the Salton Sea. We take a brief rest before descending down a series of switch backs as we travel north. Once reaching the wash we cross over and take the scenic Moon Country Trail. This is a one way hike ending at the CVP Visitors Center where we will be picked up. Can also be done as a car-ferry with one set of cars parked at the Willis Palms trail head on the way to the Thousand Palms starting point, or as a key exchange with two groups or cars and exchanging keys in the middle. Hikers who come on this hike need to easily handle a 1,000 accent and be aware that sometimes the trail narrows and of the possibility of windy conditions! BRING WATER. POLES OPTIONAL!

## **HIDDEN PALMS**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3.8 miles; gain, 450 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January, 2024, Paul/Suzy Pendolino**

**Prev: Jim Biewer, MonMornHkBagelGang, Duane Paschall, Ken Linville, Ernie Manson**

This hike starts at the Coachella Valley Preserve parking lot, crosses Thousand Palms Canyon Rd., climbs the steps to the bottom of the Bee Mesa Ridge, then drops south to the Hidden Palms Oasis. Hidden Palms is a natural grove nestled at the bottom of slopes and hard to spot from most directions, where we'll pause for a water break and snacks. We'll return by an alternate route, eventually making a big figure 8 track. There is a steep climb, that we will take slowly, that brings us from the wash back up to the trail.

**EASY1: 3 miles; gain, 350 feet; duration of hike, 1.5hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 2025, Lynne/Ed Hopkins**

This is one of the easiest hikes in the valley. Minimal gains (we will gain 100 feet of quick altitude twice during this hike). We park at the popular parking spot on Thousand Palms Canyon Rd., climb the steps to the bottom of the Bee Mesa Ridge, then drop south to the Hidden Palms Oasis. Hidden Palms is a natural grove nestled at the bottom of slopes and hard to spot from most directions, where we'll pause for a water break and snacks.

Return via same path. Although this is an easy hike, the path is sandy in places and rocky in others. Sturdy shoes (hiking shoes preferred) are mandatory and hiking poles are useful.

**EASY2: 3 miles; gain, minimal; duration of hike, 2 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: Dec 11, 2021, Gloria Kapp**

This version of the hike start across the road from the Willis Palms parking lot, and is a marked but rarely used trail for an out and back hike. It is a sandy, full sun trail until we get to the palms and is mostly level.

## **HORSESHOE PALMS**

**MODERATE: 4.0 miles; gain, 200 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 2024, Jack Madden; Prev: Madden**

This is not a hike for beginners, and if heights bother you, skip this hike. Otherwise, this is a wonderful desert hike. After leaving the Thousand Palms Canyon parking area, we will hike up to a high ridge bordered with sharp drop-offs that mark a branch of the San Andreas fault above a canyon that is the remnant of the original Pushawalla Canyon long before cataclysmic forces changed its direction eons ago. We will go along the ridge line for about a mile and a half and then hike off the ridge and down into the canyon below on an old mining road. We will then hike over to the Horseshoe Palms Oasis which is one of the thirteen oases created in the Coachella Valley by the San Andreas fault. The hike will continue along the palm grove for about a mile, and then we will hike back up to the ridge above, on a narrow, steep, physically demanding trail. Remember, this is not a hike for beginners and hiking poles are suggested!

Once back up on the ridge, we will retrace our steps to the trailhead. Please make sure to bring a camera because there are spectacular views of the COACHELLA Valley and Sun City from the ridgeline and fantastic up-close views of the Oasis down in the canyon. A CAMERA AND HIKING POLES ARE SUGGESTED!

### **HORSESHOE & HIDDEN PALMS**

**MODERATE: 6 miles; gain, 500 feet; area, Coachella Valley Nature Preserve; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: October 26, 2017, Ron Richardson**

Warm up for the hiking season with this moderate hike visiting our local desert attractions. We begin with a climb up Pushawalla Ridge to the scenic high point overlooking Sun City on one side and desert mountains on the other. The action of the San Andreas Fault has created this varied topography and the conditions that create the several palm oases nearby. After descending the ridge, we will pass by Horseshoe Palms on flat open desert to arrive at Hidden Palms. From here it is a gentle uphill across open desert to return to our starting point.

### **HORSESHOE & PUSHAWALLA PALMS, (From Coyote Song Way)**

**MODERATE: 5.8 miles; gain, 800+ feet; area, Indio Hills north of Sun City; duration of hike, 2.75 hours; drive time one way, 5 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 27, 2016, Jim August**

We start  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way down Coyote Song Way –the street that borders the north side of Sun City. From there we hike north through washes and on jeep trails until we reach the mouth of Pushawalla Canyon. Then we veer left up a trail on the ridge that forms the western wall of the Canyon and takes us to Horseshoe Palms. We then hike up to where the Ridge Trail ends for a fantastic view of the valley. Heading north again we will take the slot down to Pushawalla Palms. Then we meander down through the Palms, the Canyon, and the washes back to our cars. BE PREPARED FOR SECTIONS OF STEEP SLOPES (BOTH UP AND DOWN) WITH UNEVEN AND SOMETIMES SLIPPERY FOOTING. GOOD WALKING SHOES ARE A MUST. THE RIDGES ARE EXPOSED, SO DRESS IN LAYERS.

### **INDIAN PALMS**

**EASY: 3 miles; gain, 100 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: Dec 12, 2020, Gloria Kapp**

This hike starts at the Coachella Valley Preserve parking lot and crosses Thousand Palms Canyon Road. On the Indian Palms Trail we'll check out both the north and south palms before returning on the same trail to the parking lot. For newcomers, this is a good introduction to the Coachella Valley Preserve and some of its features. A good little warm-up hike to get your day going.

### **McCALLUM GROVE OASIS, From Visitors Center**

**EASY: 3.2 miles; gain, 100 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 6, 2019, Laura Marshall; Prev Janice Milgrim**

This hike is for those who will enjoy an easy stroll along a flat, mostly gravel path. We will begin our hike at the Preserve visitor's parking lot and enter the Thousand Palms Oasis, a lush desert oasis of more than a thousand palms created by ground water seeping up to the surface. We will walk through the oasis and then hike through some very scenic and beautiful washes known as the McCallum Trail for about a mile. We will enter and walk through the

McCallum Grove Oasis, a classic desert oasis, and then head to Vista Point about a half-mile further to the West, where we'll find an awesome panoramic view of the surrounding desert terrain. It is amazing to see so much water in the middle of the desert!! This walk includes walking through some sand washes - good hiking shoes recommended.

### **McCALLUM TRAIL & GROVE; SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE**

**MODERATE: 4.2 miles; gain, 100 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: October 25, 2018, Carol Weston**

THIS HIKE IS FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS ONLY. The afternoon start time will allow the photographer to take advantage of the afternoon light. Hikers will need to carry all equipment; cameras, tripods, camera bag, plus water and snacks. We'll explore Coachella Valley Preserve for our first "Sun City Photographer Hike." We'll take time to shoot photos of the Palm House, and the adjacent Palm Oasis. It's beautiful. If we are lucky, we'll see the great horned owl that roosts in the area. Next, we'll make our way towards the McCallum Grove and Oasis stopping along the way to take photos. You may want to hike up a sandy hill to the Moon Trail Overlook for a sunset view of the Indio Hills.

### **McCALLUM TRAIL & GROVES; SPECIAL INTERPRETIVE HIKE**

**EASY: 3 miles; gain, 100 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 21, 2019, Jack Madden**

This is a wonderful, early morning, introductory desert "walk & talk" hike. The hike will be a moderately slow, interpretative hike with multiple stops to discuss the local flora, fauna, geology and cultural history of this "hidden gem" of the desert. Some of the subjects that will be discussed on this hike are:

1. Why are there palm forests in the middle of a desert?
2. Where is all this water coming from?
3. What is a fault line, and where is it?
4. How did the Native Cahuilla use the native plants?
5. How do the plants survive with so little rain?

The hike will begin at the preserve's visitor parking lot and enter the Thousand Palms Oasis, a lush desert oasis created by ground water seeping up to the surface. We will walk through the oasis and then hike through some scenic washes known as the McCallum Trail for about a mile. Then we will enter and explore the McCallum Grove Oasis, a classic desert oasis.

Finally, we will retrace our steps back to the parking lot. Cameras are suggested for this hike.

### **MACOMBER PALMS OASIS**

**MODERATE: 5 miles; gain, 400 feet; area, C.V. Preserve; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 5 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 2024, Laurie McCulley; Prev: Jack Madden**

We will drive from SCPD to the end of Coyote Song Way, the street that borders the north side of Sun City. We will park on the road and hike north up through some very scenic and pretty desert to the Macomber Palm Oasis. There will be a number of smaller oases along our route. We will be hiking along the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault. This is a wonderful desert hike with spectacular views of the Coachella Valley and Sun City from high up in the washes. Hiking sticks and cameras are suggested for this hike.

## **MOON COUNTRY LOOP & CANYON TRAIL**

**EASY/MODERATE: 5.5 miles; gain: 380 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 2024, Laurie McCully**

**Prev: Monday morn hike&bagel gang, Cameron/Ashford, Heather Gehring**

Traveling to the moon is so expensive, so we've settled on Moon Country Loop instead; some claim it resembles the moon, but it's a lot closer to home. We will start at the Visitor's Center of the Coachella Valley Preserve, going through an oasis to McCallum Pond. Then we will connect to the Moon Country Trail and a scenic overlook on the way to the Canyon Trail. After a snack at the end of the Canyon Trail, we will re-connect to the Moon Country Trail, following a wash back to the trailhead. We consider this an Easy/Moderate walk due to some rocky ascents. We'll stop at the Vista Point (for some beautiful views), before descending to the rocky desert wash. Hats and hiking poles recommended.

**EASY: 4 miles; gain 318 feet, duration of hike, 2 hours**

## **MOON COUNTRY - NORTHERN APPROACH**

**MODERATE: 3.5 miles; gain, 800 feet; duration of hike, 2.5 - 3 hours; Area, C.V. Preserve/ Sky Valley; drive time one way, 15 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 11, 2021, Gloria Kapp**

**Prev: Burt Falk**

This hike through a lightly used area of the Coachella Valley Preserve starts from the south end of Larson Lane (reached via Dillon Road) in Sky Valley. We will approach Moon Country from the north, across Bureau of Land Management land (not part of the CVP). We will hike southerly across desert terrain, using Jeep trails and cross-country, until we reach the upper portion of Moon County through a wash that eventually becomes a pleasant slot canyon. Return the same way. Great views! Interesting country! (This hike has also been done as a key exchange, one group starting from the Coachella Valley Preserve (CVP) parking lot, another starting from Larsen Lane, meeting in Moon Country.) Bring trail snacks, water, and hiking poles.

## **MOON COUNTRY - KEY EXCHANGE**

**EASY Hike: 4.0 miles; gain, 500 feet; area: Sky Valley; duration of Hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: January 21, 2019, Monday Morn Hike&Bagel Gang;**

**Prev: Burt Falk & Ken Linville**

Half the hikers will begin in the Coachella Valley Preserve Parking Lot, heading north on the McCallum Oasis Trail; the remaining half will drive north on Thousand Palms Canyon Road, then west (left) on Dillon Road, then south (left again) on Larson Lane continuing to the end of the road. From there, this group will hike southeast across level desert, exchanging keys with first group halfway through the hike, continuing on to the C.V. Preserve Parking Lot. Above directions are vice versa for first group. An after-hike stop for coffee at the Sun City Daily Grind is optional.

## **MT. BERNINGER**

**MODERATE: 3.8 miles; gain, 400 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 5 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: February 23, 2021, Gail&Jim Scott**

Named in honor of former SCPD hike leader John Beringer, our goal is a 300' mountain reached by hiking across the bajada (alluvial fan) north of Coyote Song Road, then up a

gradual ridge paralleling Pushawalla Canyon. After a short rest at the summit, we will descend into the canyon, and then make our way, due south, back to our vehicles.

## **OASIS QUARTET**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6.5 miles; gain: 800 feet Area: Indio Hills North of Sun City; duration of hike, 3+ hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 2, 2016, Jim August**

Starting from the Preserve parking lot, we will head to Pushawalla Palms Oasis via the washes instead of the trail (the old stairs) up to the ridge. After descending down to Pushawalla Canyon and traversing the oasis, we'll head back up to the floor of Horseshoe Palms Oasis and hike southwest through washes and over hills to meet up with Hidden Palms Oasis. From there we will head North as if going back to the old stairs, but then we'll head West, down into Thousand Palms Canyon, across the road, and back to our cars through the southern entrance to Thousand Palms Oasis – the last of the Quartet.

## **PRESERVE OVERVIEW**

**EASY: 2 miles; gain, 200 feet; area, Palm Desert; duration of hike, 2 hrs; drive time one way, 5 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: October 5, 2016, Kerry Berman**

Come Explore the Coachella Valley Preserve located in our 'backyard'. This hike will provide you with an overview of the Preserve, its history and flora and fauna that can be found within the Preserve. Bring a camera as there are plenty of opportunities for great photos. This delightful haven has no user fees, though donations are greatly appreciated.

## **PUSHAWALLA CANYON NORTH**

**MODERATE: 4.4 miles; gain, 510 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of the hike, 3 1/2 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: Jan 11, 2021, Mryna Harris**

**Prev: MonMornHk&BagelGang, John Beringer**

We will start our trek at the trailhead in the Preserve visitor's parking lot and traverse southeasterly across Thousand Palms Road to the steps leading up to the ridge of Bee Rock Mesa. The trail then heads easterly on top of the ridge to the last high bump, then heads down a steep section and on to the bottom of Pushawalla Canyon natural palm tree grove. After pausing for a water break, we will head up the canyon, climb a steep, rocky draw, and return to the Preserve parking lot via a new, improved trail. Good hiking boots and poles recommended.

## **PUSHAWALLA CANYON SOUTH**

**MODERATE: 6 miles; gain, 700 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: December 10, 2018; Monday Morn Hike & Bagel Gang**

After parking in the C.V. Preserve lot, we'll cross Thousand Palms Canyon Road, hike east on a good trail into Pushawalla Canyon, turn right and continue downstream to a point where the canyon ends. From there, we'll turn right (west), climb the nose of a gentle ridge, pass below Mt. Beringer, and begin our way back to our vehicles. The views to the south, overlooking Sun City Palm Desert, should be terrific.

## **PUSHAWALLA CANYON SOUTH ENTRY**

**MODERATE: 4.5 miles; gain: 250 feet; area: Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 5 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 2024, Jack Madden**

**Prev: MonMornHk&BagelGang, Gail&Jim Scott, Jack Madden**

This is an interesting desert hike because of the wide variety of plants, especially palm groves that you will see. We will hike from Coyote Song Way (the street on the northern border of Sun City) north for about a mile through the trail-less alluvial fan (bajada) which forms our beautiful local desert. You will then move into Pushawalla Canyon and be awed by tall canyon walls of sedimentary conglomerate that were deposited over millions and millions of years and then lifted by seismic action and then sculpted by torrential rain and powerful winds. Within the Canyon, you will see evidence of cataclysmic seismic action that changed the whole course of Pushawalla Canyon from a westerly direction to its present-day southerly course. We will follow the canyon bottom for about a mile and a half through a series of native palm groves, walking at time beside small flowing streams of ground water that has percolated up from the aquifer, up to the headwaters of the spring at Pushawalla Oasis. We will take a break at the oasis before retracing our steps to our cars. There will be spectacular views of the Coachella Valley and Sun City from the wash that leads into and out of the canyon. (A **3.8 mile, 2.5 hour duration** version of this hike goes only as far as a picnic table on top of the San Andreas Fault before turning around) Camera and hiking sticks are suggested.

## **PUSHAWALLA CANYON, (from Preserve Visitor Center)**

**MODERATE: 4.2 miles; gain, 510 feet; area, C.V. Preserve; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: December 23, 2015, Roger Dolliff**

**Prev: Ken Linville, Duane Paschall, John Beringer**

Parking will be in the Coachella Preserve Visitor Center (if open) or nearby on the side of Thousand Palms Road. We'll then take the trail through the wash to steps leading to the top of the ridge which overlooks much of the Coachella Valley. The trail leads along the ridgeline and then winds down a steep rocky hillside to the bottom of the Pushawalla Canyon and the grove of palms in this oasis. We will then head back up from the Canyon and loop around the south side of the ridge next to Horse Shoe Palms and up a steep trail to the ridge which will take us back to the steps and on to the trail head.

## **PUSHAWALLA CANYON KEY EXCHANGE**

**MODERATE: 4.6 miles; gain, 200/700 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: 2019/2020 Season, Monday Morn Hike&bagel Gang**

After trading vehicles in the Lakeside parking lot, Car #1 (downhill group, 200 foot gain) will drive to the northeast start of the hike located on Hot Well Road, just off Dillon Road, while Car #2 (uphill group, 700 foot gain) will proceed to the Coachella Valley Preserve (CVP) parking lot. The Car #1 group will proceed down trail-less Pushawalla Canyon until climbing out of the gorge, just above a large palm oasis, on a well-marked trail leading west to the CVP parking lot. The Car #2 group will proceed on the same route in an opposite direction, meeting and exchanging keys with the Car #1+ group about half-way.

## **PUSHAWALLA RIDGE, DOLLAR ROAD, PUSHAWALLA CANYON**

**ADVANCED: 9 miles; gain: 600 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 25, 2016, Roger Dolliff**

We start from the Visitor Center and hike towards Pushwalla Palms on the scenic elevated trail. The next segment directs us to the north on a desolate winding use road ending up at a trailhead kiosk at the end of Dollar road. Shortly after, we join Pushawalla Canyon from the north hiking the canyon in its entirety. We pass tall canyon walls, a car crash site and two palm groves as we hike back towards the Visitor Center on the south side of Pushawalla Trail. This hike is long, but not terribly strenuous and is unknown to many.

Bring plenty of water and trail snacks. Poles also a good idea.

## **RESERVOIR RIDGE (aka Huff & Puff)**

Rancho Mirage may have the “Bump & Grind, but past Hiking Club President Ken Place blazed a trail right in our own backyard that has fabulous views of the valley while offering a variety of trail options to challenge our hikers. All this and virtually no commute time. Just to our North, Sun City’s water tank reservoir is nestled up against a portion of the Indio Hills that is literally an island of terrain surrounded by desert washes and a section of the San Andreas Fault that is studded with palm oasis. THESE HIKES ARE NOT WALKS IN THE PARK. BE PREPARED FOR MANY SECTIONS OF STEEP SLOPES (BOTH UP AND DOWN) WITH UNEVEN AND SOMETIMES SLIPPERY FOOTING. GOOD HIKING SHOES ARE A MUST. HIKING POLES ALSO RECOMMENDED. THE RIDGE IS VERY EXPOSED SO DRESS APPROPRIATELY.

**MODERATE: 3.5 to 5 miles; gain, 550 feet; area, C.V. Preserve; duration of hike, 2 to 3 hours; drive time one way, 5 minutes**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: January 2025, Don Bailey**

**Prev: Biewer/Biewer/Bendel/Farrell, Linda Biewer, Laura Marshall,**

**MonMornHk&BagelGang, Jim August, Ken Place**

We will start by driving to the end of Coyote Song Way – the street that borders the North side of Sun City. A short walk will bring us to the Southwest trailhead. For the next mile we will gain about 550 feet on a steady slope similar to the Bump & Grind. There are great views of the Coachella Valley all the way. The summit is a picturesque overlook with rock art and sweeping vistas of the Coachella Valley, the Salton Sea, and the remnants of the vineyard that encompassed the land where our homes now stand. Option 1: from here we head in an Easterly direction and traverse the North edge of the Ridge overlooking Macomber Palms and Biskra Palms Oasis, which both sit on the San Andreas Fault. We work our way back down a steep descent to the valley floor and the Southeast trailhead. Using jeep trails and old agricultural roads, we will walk back to our cars. Option 2: we'll descend the steep northern slope, making our way back to our vehicles via a sandy wash. Option 3: proceed further along the ridge to view Macomber and Biskra Palms if desired, and then return to the cars by the original trail.

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 5.25 miles; gain, 1,160 ft.; area, C.V. Preserve; duration of hike, 2.75+ hours; drive time one way, 5 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 31, 2016, Jim August**

We start from the end of Coyote Song Way – the street that borders the north side of Sun City. A short walk will bring us to the southwest trailhead where we will continue up, across the backside, down the southeast side of the trail, and back down to the desert floor. After a short break (and a big gulp of air), we will retrace our steps up the very steep eastern slope

making our way back to the western side, then back down to the desert floor and a return to our cars.

### **RESERVOIR RIDGE LOOP-D-LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 5.5 miles; gain, 1,000 feet; area, C.V. Preserve; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 5 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 4, 2014, Ken Place**

We'll park at the end of Coyote Song Way then walk in sandy washes around the west end of Reservoir Ridge to the new trail on the north side, which will take us to the top of Reservoir Ridge. We'll follow the ridge east and south, to the southeast end of the ridge and down to the valley floor. Here we'll start the Loop-D-Loop. We'll take sandy washes around the east end of Reservoir Ridge back to the first new trail, then back up to the top of the ridge. This time we'll turn west and south, following the ridge back to our cars.

### **RIPARIAN HIKE**

**MODERATE: 5 miles; gain: 200 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 26, 2016, Jack Madden**

The hike will begin at the Coachella Valley Preserve visitor's parking lot and enter the Thousand Palm Oasis, a lush desert oasis of more than a thousand palms created by ground water seeping up to the surface. This is an exceptionally interesting hike which follows ground water as it percolates up from the Coachella Valley Aquifer into the Thousand Palms Oasis and returns back into the ground. We will follow the water as it flows out of the oasis, under Thousand Palms Canyon Road. Finally, we will retrace our steps back to the parking lot. Hikers must have good physical agility. This hike will be over very uneven and broken terrain and will require the crossing and re-crossing of the water course which can be several feet wide in places. Cameras are suggested for this hike.

### **SAND DUNES OFF 38TH STREET**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3.5 miles; gain, nil; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, none**

**Date & leader of most recent hikes: April 9, 2015, Burt Falk; Prev: Ken Linville**

#### **SUGGESTED \$5 DONATION TO THE COACHELLA VALLEY PRESERVE**

Led by Ginny Short, Preserve Manager and naturalist extraordinaire, our group will walk from the Lakeview Clubhouse Parking Area across Washington Street, into the fenced-off Preserve. Heading southwest across the desert floor, we'll visit the sand dunes north of 38th Street, where, hopefully, we will observe a Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard.

### **SMOKETREE TRAIL / HIDDEN PALMS & INDIAN PALMS**

**EASY: 2.5 miles; gain, nil; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 2, 2015, Kerry Berman**

Start at the Vagabond House in Willis Palms and follow the Smoketree Trail through oasis to Squaw Hill and then across to Hidden Palms. This will be a Nature, Geology, Indian and Pioneer History walk as it relates to preserve (past, present, and future).

### **SMOKETREE TRAIL / SQUAW HILL**

**EASY: 1 mile or less; gain, 100 ft; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 2 to 3 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 2025, Kerry Berman; Prev: Berman**

This is a delightful historical/nature walk in the beautiful Palm Oasis at the Coachella Valley Preserve. Learn about the history, geology, plants, animals and the Native American Indians on Squaw Hill overlooking Sky Valley located on the North American Tectonic plate on the Mission Creek branch of the San Andreas Fault. The hike begins on the Smoketree Trail in the Coachella Valley Preserve . This trail is mostly flat and level in the Palm Oasis and pond, with the exception of Squaw Hill (Ancient ceremonial site approximately 100 ft high). Great photo opportunities. Tennis shoes are OK, bring bottle water and hat - not cardio.

**SQUAW HILL & INDIAN PALMS**

**EASY: 2.5 miles; gain, 600 feet; area, Coachella Valley Preserve, duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 8 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 10, 2015, Ken Place**

We will park at the Visitor Center and view the palms and water level in the Thousand Palms oasis, then head up Squaw Hill for a view of the surrounding area. We'll return down the hill and onto the Indian Palms Trail. At Indian Palms Tail we'll check out both the north and south palms before returning on the same trail to the parking lot. FOR NEWCOMERS THIS IS A GOOD INTRODUCTION TO THE COACHELLA VALLEY PRESERVE AND SOME OF IT'S FEATURES. A GOOD LITTLE WARM-UP HIKE TO GET YOUR DAY GOING. WE SHOULD BE HOME AROUND 10:00 A.M.

**WILDFLOWER ADVENTURE THRU COACHELLA VALLEY PRESERVE**

**EASY: 2 miles; gain, nil; area: Coachella Valley Preserve; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 11, 2019, Kerry Berman**

This is a Wildflower Spectacular. When abundant liquid sunshine hits the fertile desert flower we have a super bloom. This year the flowers are incredible and they're just outside our back door. We'll discover over 30 different kinds of flora, some of which we haven't seen in years. Also, learn about the Native American Cahuilla Indians who lived at the palm oasis. Bring camera, water, hat, & sunscreen.

**WILLIS PALMS**

**EASY: 3 miles; gain, 300 feet; duration of hike, 2 hours**

**Area, Coachella Valley Preserve; drive time one way, 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 2023, Suzy/Paul Pendolino**

**Prev: MonMornHk&BagelGang, Myrna Harris**

The Coachella Valley Preserve is a jewel right in our backyard. Willis Palms is the big oasis that we see as we drive toward Palm Springs on Ramon. This hike is a loop from the special Willis Palms parking area. We will ascend a rocky wash at the top of which we have a breathtaking view of the oasis from above. Then we descend via a short series of switchbacks into the oasis. The hike back to the cars is flat and crosses the horse trail. Come learn a little bit about the oasis in general and the history of fire and the Willis Palms. (Can also be done as an **EASY/MODERATE; 4 miles; gain 500 feet** hike with same description)

**EASY/MODERATE: 5 miles; gain 210 feet; duration of hike, 3 hours**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: 2017/18 season, Monday Morn Hike&Bagel Gang**

This hike will start at the Coachella Valley Preserve (CVP) center parking lot and walk across Thousand Palms Hwy and then trek southerly along the Hidden Palms Trail (HPT) that stays in the wash instead of the more familiar HPT that goes up to the foot of Bee Mesa Ridge. We will come to a trail junction and take the westerly designated Willis Palms Trail trekking past the

Willis Palms parking lot to the Grove. We will return by the same route to the CVP center parking lot.

**MODERATE: 4 miles; gain, 400 feet; duration of hike, 3 hours**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: December 20, 2021, Gail&Jim Scott**

**Prev: Gail&Jim Scott, Gloria Kapp, MonMornHk&BagelGang**

This is a loop hike starting from the special Willis Palms parking area on Thousand Palms Road, passing by the oasis itself, ascending a sandy wash, climbing a steep ridge running south below Mt. Herman, and then going along the West Mesa with marvelous views of the Coachella Valley. Then, via a short series of switchbacks, we descend into the oasis. The hike back to the cars is short and flat.

## **DESERT CITIES**

### **ART SMITH TRAIL**

**EASY: 2 miles; gain, 400 feet; duration of hike 2-3 hours**

**Area: Palm Desert/Santa Rosa Mtns; Drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: Feb 9, 2021, Kerry Berman**

After parking on the west side of Highway 74, across the street from the National Monument Visitor Center, this is an easy interpretive hike along the Art Smith Trail where we will learn about the flora, fauna and history of the area. Cameras, hats, and sun screen highly recommend. Water & closed toe shoes are a must.

**MODERATE #1; To First Oasis: 4 miles; gain, 900 feet; duration of hike, 2 hours**

**MODERATE #2; To Second Oasis: 5 miles; gain 1,100 feet; duration of hike, 2.5 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hikes: October 2024, Biewer/Bendell/Biewer/Farrell**

**Prev: Jim/Linda Biewer, Laura Marshall, MonMornHk&BagelGang**

After parking on the west side of Highway 74, across the street from the National Monument Visitor Center, we will hike a half mile across a wash to the base of an 0.2 mile steep switchback leading to the top of a ridge overlooking the posh Big Horn Golf Club and Development. We will take breaks along the way to admire the views. Continue along the ridge, passing the junction with the Hopalong Cassidy Trail, until reaching the first oasis about 2 miles into the hike, approximately 1 1/4 hour from the trailhead (or the second oasis about 2.5 miles into the hike, approximately 1 1/2 hours from the trailhead). Bring plenty of water. Hiking poles are recommended.

**MODERATE/ADVANCED; Past Third Oasis: 6.5 miles; gain, 1400 feet; duration 4 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 2025, Ross Vanderputten**

**Prev: Heather Gehring, Ross Vanderputten**

After parking on the west side of Highway 74, across the street from the National Monument Visitor Center, we will hike a half mile across a wash to the base of a steep switchback leading to the top of a ridge overlooking the posh Big Horn Golf Club and Development. Continue along the ridge up a fairly steady incline beyond 3 oases to a plateau overlooking the Coachella Valley. This will be our snack/turn around point. This hike has varied desert terrain with the steepest part at the very beginning. Possible bighorn sheep sightings!

### **ART SMITH, HOPALONG CASSIDY, HOMESTEAD TRAILS**

**ADVANCED: 7.2 miles; gain/loss, 1830 foot ascent and 2530 foot descent for hikers S. to N., 2530 foot ascent, 1830 foot loss for hikers N. to S.; area; Palm Desert; duration of hike, 5 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 13, 2014, Duane Paschall & Ernie Manson**

This will be a key exchange hike, with one group traveling N. to S. beginning at the Homestead trail head, then connecting to the Hopalong Cassidy trail, traversing past the cross, passing between the Stone Eagle Golf Course and Big Horn. We'll travel the Hopalong Cassidy trail, connecting to the Art Smith trail to its Junction with Highway 74. A second group traveling S. to N. will begin the trek at the junction of Highway 74 and travel in reverse ending at the Gabby Hayes Trail head. EXPECT BEAUTIFUL VIEWS AND INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING TERRAIN, POSSIBLY A BIG HORN. BRING PLENTY OF WATER

### **ART SMITH - HAHN BUENA VISTA - WILD HORSE - ARABY TRAILS**

**ADVANCED: 17 miles; gain, 2000 feet; area, Palm Desert; duration of hike, 8 hours; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 24, 2015, Ray Cheeney**

This hike will be a ONE WAY hike with transportation being provided at the beginning and at the end. Our hike will start on the Art Smith Trail off of Highway 74 and continue to its conclusion at Dunn Road. Once we reach Dunn Road we will cross over and connect with the Hahn Buena Vista Trail then by means of a short portion of the Dunn Road Trail we will connect with the Wild Horse Trail. This section will bring us coming from the South and West of Murray Peak. Our final descent to the valley floor will be on the Araby Trail.

**DUE TO THE LOGISTICS INVOLVED PLEASE CALL LEADER IN ADVANCE**

### **BEAR CREEK CANYON OVERLOOK**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3.5 miles; gain, 500 feet; area, LaQuinta Cove; duration of hike, 2.25 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike: November 2023, Laurie McCulley,**

**Prev: Suzy/Paul Pendoline, Jim Biewer**

The hike will begin at the La Quinta cove. The trail begins with a gradual ascent through a wash and then ascends rapidly up to a vista point, which has a 360 degree view of the surrounding Santa Rosa mountains. Down to your left is the massive rocky canyon of Bear Creek. Return same trail. Hiking poles recommended, bring plenty of water

### **BEAR CREEK CANYON RIDGE/OASIS**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6.5 miles; gain, 1,500 feet; duration of hike, 3.5 hours**

**Area, LaQuinta Cove; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike: December, 2022, Ross Vanderputten**

**Prev: Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel, MonMornHike&BagelGang, Ross Vanderputten**

The hike will begin at the La Quinta cove. The trail begins with a gradual ascent through a wash and then ascends rapidly up the ridge to Chocolate Rock vista, which has a 360 degree view of the surrounding Coachella area mountains, the Salton Sea and Joshua Tree National Park. Down to your left is the massive rocky canyon of Bear Creek. Return same trail. Hiking poles recommended, bring plenty of water

**ADVANCED: 9 miles; gain, 2,200 feet; duration of hike, 5-6 hours**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: April 2025, Robert Heckert**

**Prev: Robert Heckert, Brian Johnson, John Beringer**

This hike will begin at the La Quinta cove with the first half mile being flat and offering a good warm-up and stretch. From there the trail enters a wash with a gradual ascent for a mile, then transitions into a well-traveled path above Bear Creek Canyon. The trail proceeds with good footing and a consistent grade for the remaining three miles and offers stunning views of La Quinta and the surrounding valley. Our hike will follow the trail along ridgebacks to intermittent plateaus offering an abundance of splendid scenery. We will reach our destination with a slight

descent to a lush palm oasis situated in a small canyon. Our return will follow the same trail. Pack a Lunch. Bring trail snacks, and plenty of water. Hiking poles are always a good idea.

### **BEAR CREEK URBAN TRAIL**

**EASY/MODERATE: 5.2 miles; gain, 300 feet; area, La Quinta; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: Mar 2024, Lynne/Ed Hopkins;**

**Prev: Jim Biewer; MonMornHk&BagelGang; Roger Dolliff**

This is a nice early morning urban walk on a paved trail, through La Quinta's Bear Creek Park, located on the western edge of town in La Quinta Cove. You will see sweeping vistas of Martinez Mountain and the Santa Rosa foothills. This easy 2.6 mile (5.2 mile round trip) trail offers dramatic views of the nearby mountains, and passes by many examples of wonderful Santa Fe style of architecture. Return to vehicles on the same route.

### **BERDOO CANYON**

**EASY: 2 miles; gain, 100 feet; area, Little San Bernardino Mts. Indio; duration of hike, 2-2.5 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 13, 2015, Kerry Berman**

Hike to Berdoo Camp which was used during the building of the Colorado River aqueduct in the 1930's. Interpretive hike about the aqueduct, aquifer, ancient Lake Cahuilla, and Salton Sea. Where we get our water and will it last?

### **BOO HOFF AND BEAR CREEK TRAIL LOOP**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3.9 miles; gain, 500 Feet; area, La Quinta Cove; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike: April, 2024, Suzy & Paul Pendolino**

**Prev: Suzy/Paul Pendolino**

This hike begins at the LaQuinta Cove parking area on the Boo Hoff Trail. We'll follow that rocky/sandy trail with gentle inclines, encountering a steeper climb along the back side of the hills. Enjoy a variety of cacti and flowers along the way. The terrain promises some cool rock formations and crevices along our path. We return along the Bear Creek Canyon trail to our trailhead. Good hiking shoes, poles and a hat are recommended. AND WATER!

### **BOO HOFF/MORROW TRAIL LOOP**

**ADVANCED: 12 miles; gain, 2200 Feet; area, Santa Rosa Mountains; duration of hike, 8 hours, drive time one way, 15 minutes**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike: January 25, 2017, Ray Cheeney**

This hike will combine two great trails, The Boo Hoff and The Morrow Trails, to give us a variety of displays of Ocotillos and a variety of Cacti plus vistas of Martinez Mountain, La Quinta and the Salton Sea. We will start at La Quinta Cove and climb onto the north slope of towering Martinez Mountain then turn east and descends beside Devil Canyon with continuation to Cahuilla Lake and returning via the Morrow Trail.

### **BOO HOFF TRAIL TO VISTA POINT**

**ADVANCED: 7 miles; gain, 1400 feet; area, Santa Rosa Mountains; duration of hike, 5 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

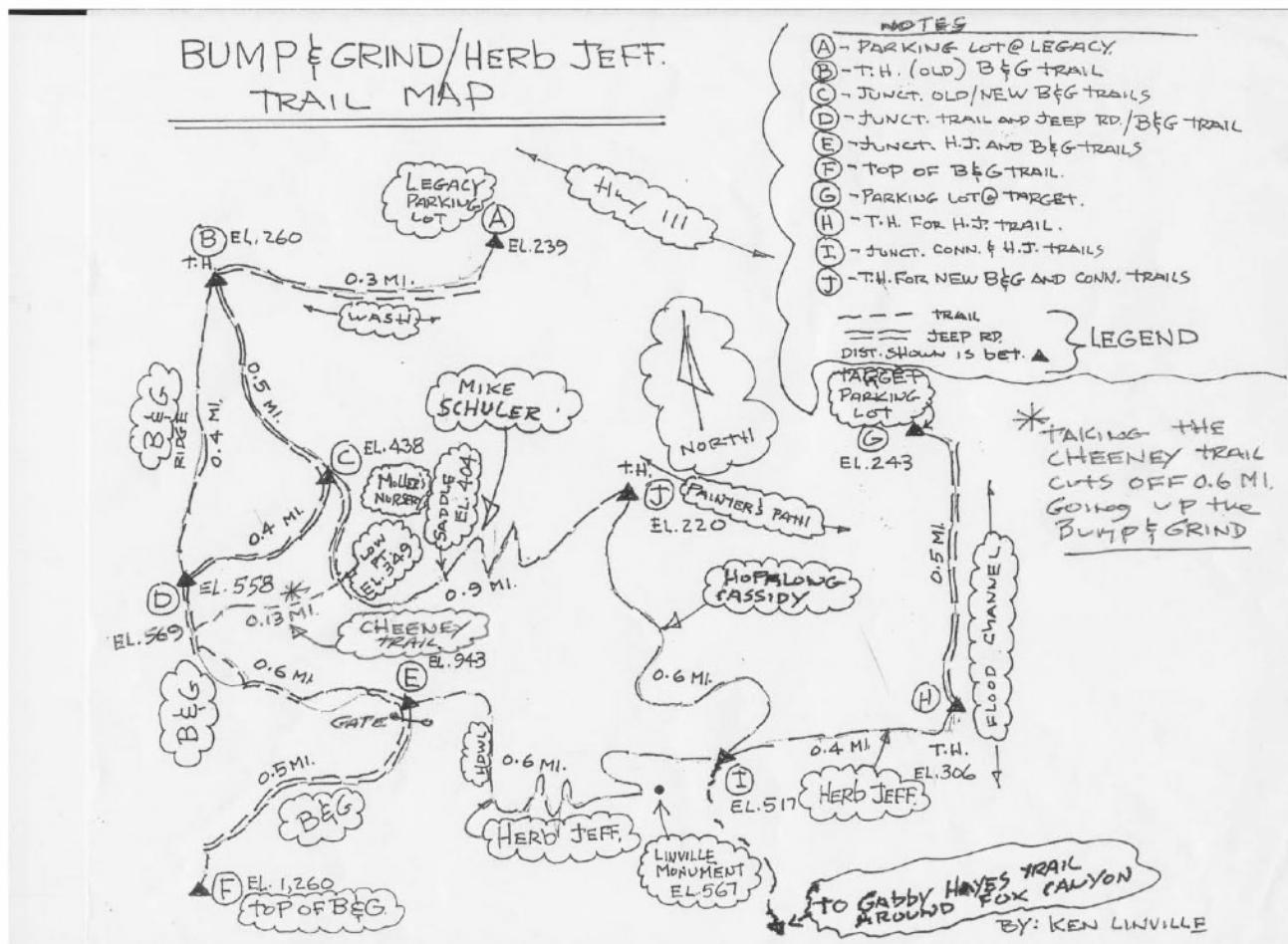
**Date&leaders of most recent hike: January 2025, Linda Biewer**

**Prev: Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel**

This hike gives us a variety of displays of Ocotillos, Cacti and stunning views of Martinez Mountain, La Quinta, the Coachella Valley and the Salton Sea. We will start at La Quinta Cove and hike around the east side of Raven Hill to reach the Boo Hoff trailhead. From that point on, the narrow trail is a steady climb on switchbacks up the north slope of towering Martinez Mountain to a panoramic vista point, where we will stop for the sights and a snack. After our respite, we will head back down to La Quinta Cove via the same trail (or optionally use the west side of Raven Hill). Due to loose gravel on the trail, sturdy hiking boots and hiking poles are highly recommended. Bring plenty of water, snacks and a camera.

## BUMP & GRIND

The Bump & Grind is one of the most popular and heavily used hikes in the Coachella Valley, with a long steady uphill stretch, wide path, and superb views of Palm Desert and the surrounding Coachella Valley. It is used as a conditioning hike for many, leading to limited parking and crowded trails on weekends and holidays. Further, between Nov. 1 and April 30, due to the sensitive nature of the Big Horn lambing season, hiking beyond the gate located a half mile below the top is prohibited. Although other hikers often ignore this state law, the SCPD Hiking Club does not schedule hikes beyond the gate during the area's closure. Our



Sun City Hiking Patriarch, **Ken Linville**, has given us the sketch above of how the Bump and Grind fits into the complex of trails on the Southern boundary of central Palm Desert. We use several routes as described below, varying in their starting location and connector trails to the core Bump and Grind segment. Route 1 starts with the switchbacks and narrow spots of the Mike Schuler trail, then joins the wider Bump and Grind that leads up to a vantage point that

gives sweeping views of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage and the entire Coachella Valley. The steady ascent gives a great cardio workout. Routes 2 and 3 use the steep and hazardous sections of the Herb Jefferies trail, leading to the Moderate/Advanced difficulty rating. The parking area is on Painter's Path, behind the Target store at the intersection of Hwy. 111 and Fred Waring Dr. **NONE OF THESE ARE HIKES FOR BEGINNERS.** Hike poles recommended.

**ROUTE 1: Up and back via the Mike Schuler and Bump & Grind Trails**

**To Gate:** MODERATE: 3.8 miles; gain, 730 feet; duration of hike, 2.5 hours

**To Top:** MODERATE: 4.8 miles; gain, 1,070 feet; duration of hike, 2.5 hours

**ROUTE 2: Loop hike via the Hopalong Cassidy, Herb Jefferies, Bump & Grind and Mike Schuler trails**

**To Gate:** MOD/ADVANCED; 3.2 miles; gain, 723 feet; duration of hike, 2.5 hours

**To Top:** MOD/ADVANCED; 4.2 miles; gain, 1,070 feet; duration of hike; 3.0 hours

**ROUTE 3: Loop hike via the Wash, Herb Jefferies, Bump & Grind, and Mike Schuler trails:**

**To Gate:** MOD/ADVANCED; 3 + miles; gain 723 feet; duration of hike, 2 hours

**To Top:** MOD/ADVANCED; 4+ miles; gain 1,070 feet; duration of hike, 2-1/2 hours

Drive time one way, 20 minutes

Date & Leader of most recent hike: November 2022, Laura Marshall

Prev: MonMornHk&BagelGang, many others

## **BUMP & GRIND BY MOONLIGHT**

**MODERATE:** 4 miles; gain, 800 feet; area, Palm Desert; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes

Date&leader of most recent hike: April, 2023, Laura Marshall

Prev: Laura Marshall, Roger Dolliff, Ray Cheeney

Hike one of the Valley's most popular trails by a full moon. The trail is easy to navigate on this 800 foot gain hike for a good fitness workout. We will start with the switchbacks and narrow spots of the Mike Schuler trail, then join the wider Bump and Grind that leads up to a vantage point that gives sweeping views of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage and the entire Coachella Valley. We'll look down on the newly renovated Porcupine Ranch and see the night lights of the Coachella Valley from a rare perspective. We will take some time at the top if you would like to bring a light dinner. This hike is NOT for Beginners or those who are unsteady on their feet as we will be descending in the dark. Head lamp or flashlight required. Hike poles strongly suggested.

## **BUTLER-ABRAMS TRAIL**

**EASY:** Length, 2.7 miles; gain, nil; area, Rancho Mirage; duration of hike, 1.5 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes

Date&Leader of most recent hike: March 2023, Laurie McCulley

Prev: Janice & Herb Milgrim

This beautiful walk/hike begins at Michael Wolfson Park at Frank Sinatra Drive. Trail consists of paved asphalt and concrete. Be prepared to encounter lots of dog-walkers. You will see and hear many birds and views of the mountains are abundant. We follow the Joe Butler trail above the channel. As it continues between a residential area and Morningside Country Club we cross the wash and travel along a lovely tree lined path. When we reach Country Club Drive we will retrace our steps.

## **CARRIZO CANYON**

**EASY: 3 miles; gain, 200 feet; duration of hike 2 hours; area, Palm Desert; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date&Leader of most recent hike: November 2024, Don Bailey**

Great little EASY Hike. Note this great trail is only open in October, November & December to protect Big Horn lambs. It starts like most desert trails with a march up a fairly unspectacular wash, but gets better and better as we enter and go up the canyon. The canyon walls are spectacular at points. We will take a cute little side canyon to a dry waterfall wall. And then up the main canyon to another waterfall wall. Because this is a Beginner Hike we will not scramble past these walls.

**EASY/MODERATE: 2.5 miles; gain, 310 feet; duration of hike, 1.5-2.5 hours;**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 2025, Lynn/Ed Hopkins**

**Prev: Lynne/Ed Hopkins; Nancy Bendel; Kerry Berman; MonMornHkBagelGang; Sam Kaplan, Ross Vanderputten**

Carrizo Canyon is a narrow, picturesque canyon off Highway 74, with parking in the paved Art Smith trail parking lot across the street from the National Monument Visitor Center. The trail drops down into the wash and turns left where we suddenly find ourselves in the canyon. It is unique due to presence of geological formations throughout the canyon as well as potential for viewing Bighorn sheep. The hike is very gradual and climbs over several boulder fields.

Hiking poles may be helpful. Hat, closed-toe shoes, sun screen and water recommended.

**MODERATE: 4 miles; gain, 500 feet; duration of hike, 2-3 hours;**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 2022, Linda Biewer**

**Prev: Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel, Myrna Harris**

Bighorn sheep have actually been seen here on the 26th of December in other years. No promises. We will have views from two overlooks. The second is after a moderate scramble up a dry waterfall. It's wonderful to identify the variety of desert cacti growing along the cliffs. We will take our time on this hike, especially if we get to observe bighorn.

## **CARRIZO & DEAD INDIAN CANYONS BIG HORN SHEEP ADVENTURE**

**EASY/MODERATE: 4 miles; gain 310 feet; area, Palm Desert; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way 25 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 19, 2019, CVanderputten/KBieber; Prev: Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel, Ross Vanderputten**

This hike combines the Carrizo Canyon & Dead Indian Canyon hikes. The trailhead is on the west side of Highway 74 across the street from the National Monument Visitor Center. These canyons are only open from October 1 to December 1 due to lambing season. The hike is gradual and climbs over several boulder fields. Bring cameras, water and sun screen. Hiking poles may be helpful, too. We should see the elusive Pennisular Big Horn Sheep.

## **CATHEDRAL CANYON - DUNN ROAD LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED; 4.2 miles; gain, 1100 feet; area, Cathedral City; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time ony way, 30 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: February 2025, Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel**

**Prev: Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel**

The trailhead for this hike is in the residential Cathedral Canyon Cove. After parking our cars at the end of Foothill Road, we will begin a steady climb on a steep, rocky trail to the saddle, which has sweeping views of Indian Canyons, Palm Springs, and the San Jacinto Mountains. After 2 miles of heart pumping ascents, we turn north onto a wider trail that gradually descends for the remaining 2.2 miles of the loop. Don't forget your camera, snacks and plenty of water.

This is a warm trail with no shade. HIKING BOOTS WITH GOOD TREAD & HIKING POLES ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

### **CHOCOLATE DROP & FLAG PEAK LOOP TRAIL**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 5.1 miles; gain, 1490 feet; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes; area, Desert Hot Springs**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike: December 4, 2019, Pat Fonstad**

**Prev: Ray Cheeney; John Beringer**

We will follow a wash to a use trail that ascends to the top of Chocolate Drop Peak, aptly named due to the rock formations and color. After enjoying the views we drop back to the wash and take a narrow canyon to the top of Flag Peak, with its competing USA and Canadian flags. This section involves climbing around several dry waterfalls. From Flag Peak we hike down a steep decline on the top of a ridge then bushwhacking the desert back to our cars. Hiking poles may be useful on the return downhill section.

### **COACHELLA VALLEY WILD BIRD CENTER**

**EASY: 1 mile; gain: 0 feet; area, Indio; duration of hike, 1-2 hours; drive time one way, 15 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 30, 2021, Gloria Kapp**

**Prev: Bill Pivar/Wes McNeel**

This is an opportunity to see our closest Coachella Valley wild bird rehabilitation center where injured birds from Sun City are taken. The CVWBC facility just south of I10 houses 25 acres of constructed wetland habitat with three ponds. This is on the migratory fly way to the Salton Sea so lots of different birds can be viewed from the pond areas. In addition to our resident education birds, primarily raptors and owls, you will see birds undergoing rehabilitation. Baby birds may be present. Hiking apparel is not required but enclosed shoes encouraged. Bring camera and binoculars. DURING OUR VISIT, A DONATION TO THE BIRD CENTER IS RECOMMENDED

### **COVE TO CAVE LOOKOUT**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3 - 4 miles; gain, 390 feet; duration of hike, 2 - 3 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes; area, La Quinta**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 2025, Chris Vanderputten**

**Prev: Chris Vanderputten**

The hike begins at the La Quinta Cove trailhead. There will be a gentle ascent up to an overlook of the cave at the end of the Bear Canyon wash. We will return by this same trail, or make our way to the Boo Hoff trail and follow it back towards the trailhead. Nice views overlooking the mountains around La Quinta. Don't forget water!

### **CROSS (THE) VIA GABBY HAYES AND HOPALONG CASSIDY TRAILS**

**MODERATE: 3.6 miles; gain, 865 feet; duration of hike, 1.5-2 hours; area, Palm Desert; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: March 2023, Lynne/Ed Hopkins**

**Prev: MonMornHk&BagelGang**

This popular hike starts at the Gabby Hayes Trailhead, located at the Cahuilla Park Tennis Courts, connects with the Hopalong Cassidy Trail and continues to the Cross. Moderately challenging, the trek offers sweeping views of the Valley.

## **CROSS (THE) VIA HOMESTEAD TRAIL**

**MODERATE: 2.5 miles; gain, 600 feet; duration of hike, 1.5 hours; area, Palm Desert; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: November 2024, Lynne/Ed Hopkins**

**Prev: Paul/Suzy Pendolino, Myrna Haris**

Half as long, but twice as steep as the popular Cross trail that starts with the Gabby Hayes, the trailhead for this hike is located by turning right off Hwy 74 onto Thrush, following it over a bridge, turning right along the floodway, and proceeding a few hundred yards until reaching the Homestead Trail parking area. After a steep half mile climb, the Homestead Trail merges with the Hopalong Cassidy Trail, which, turning left, leads gently to the Cross. We'll enjoy a fantastic view and a snack break while sitting at the base of the Cross. We'll return by the same trail. Hiking poles are strongly recommended and plenty of water..

## **DEAD INDIAN CANYON, BIG HORN SHEEP ADVENTURE**

**EASY: 1.5 miles; gain, 100-200 ft; area, Palm Desert; duration of hike, 2. 5 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date&Leader of most recent hike: October, 2024, Kerry Berman**

**Prev: Kerry Berman**

A Big Horn Sheep adventure into Dead Indian Canyon across from the Monument Visitor Center on Hwy 74. Learn the history, geology, flora and fauna in the Pennisular Mountain Range. This is an interpretive hike, not cardio. Dead Indian is only open 3 months out of the year for lambing season, October 1-December 31st. Bring cameras, water and sun screen. We should see the elusive Pennisular Big Horn Sheep. Closed-toe shoes, hats, cameras, water and sun screen are advised.

## **EAST INDIO HILLS BADLANDS**

**MODERATE: 5.3 miles; gain, 800 feet; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; area, Indio Hills; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: December 2024, Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel**

**Prev: Robert Heckert, Linda/Jim Biewer, Don Bailey, Bendel/Biewer/Biewer/Farrell, MonMornHk&BagelGang**

The loop trail enters the Indio Hills Badlands from a small parking area north of 42nd St. and Golf Center Parkway. First crossing the All American Canal, we continue on a trail recently established by The Friends of Desert Mountains, climbing to the top of a line of low hills. The trail traverses the San Andreas fault through twisted and tortured rocks that have been uplifted and moved over millions of years, enters several narrow slot canyons, and twists and turns in the sandy washes. The trail climbs up the ridge, which has panoramic views of the entire Coachella Valley. It then loops back to the parking area on a smooth downhill. There will be boulder scrambling up several small dry waterfalls, where footing can be sketchy. THIS HIKE IS NOT ADVISABLE FOR BEGINNING HIKERS. BOOTS WITH GOOD TREAD AND HIKING POLES ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Bring plenty of water.

**MODERATE #2: 5.5 miles; gain, 600 feet; duration of hike, 3.5 hours**

This hike avoids the boulder scrambling, is less rocky, and has slightly less elevation gain. After topping the first set of low hills, it deviates from the new trail, crosses a small valley to a road leading into the Indio Hills, on which we catch up with the new trail once more.

**MODERATE #3: 4.5 miles; gain, 400 feet; duration of hike, 3.5 hours**

This out-and-back hike starts out at the East Indio Hills Loop Trailhead, crosses north over a trailless flat, continues up a broad canyon, then follows the East Indio Hills loop trail to the top of the ridge, at which point we'll stop for water and snacks. Return the same way.

None of these options are advisable for beginning hikers. Gloves, hiking boots, poles, cameras, and plenty of water are recommended.

## **ED HASTEY TRAIL**

**EASY: 0.5 miles; gain, nil; area, Palm Desert; duration of hike, 1-2 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: January 2025, Kerry Berman**

**Prev: Berman**

This is a very, very easy interpretive walk behind the National Monument Visitor Center on highway 74 in Palm Desert through flat even terrain, where we will learn about the flora, fauna and history of the area. Cameras, hats, and sun screen highly recommend. Water & closed-toe shoes are a must. WALKERS AND SCOOTERS OK

## **EISENHOWER PEAK LOOP**

**MODERATE: 5 miles; gain, 700 feet; area, Palm Desert; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: February 28, 2018, Nina and Lee Thomas**

This is a wilderness trail system through dry sparsely vegetated hillsides of varnished granite. We begin at the main gate of The Living Desert where we proceed through the park and onto the desert floor until we reach the Canyon leg. This is the most challenging part (but very doable) of the hike as there is some rock scrambling through a dry wash for approximately 750 yards. We then begin our ascent towards the picnic ramada which is at the 1,000 foot level. After a brief rest we descend down the Ridge leg on a steep but well defined path and enjoy the spectacular view of rugged hills, date groves and country club in the valley below. Hikers are welcome to stay after and enjoy The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens.

## **FOX CANYON LOOP**

**EASY/MODERATE: 2.5 miles; gain, 360 feet; area, Palm Desert; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: March 2025, Karen Bieber**

**Prev: MonMornHike&BagelGang, Laura Marshall**

Beginning at the Cahuilla Park Tennis Courts, we follow the Gabby Hayes Trail for half a mile, connect to the Hopalong Cassidy Trail, and then join the Herb Jeffries Trail, on which we descend to the wash and continue back to the cars. This is a great hike for those just returning to the desert or for new hikers. Often this hike is reversed, with the same statistics. Hiking poles recommended to help stability.

**EASY/MODERATE #2: 3 miles; gain, 400 feet; duration of hike, 2 hours**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: April 2023, Mark McCulley**

**Prev: Monday Morn Hike&Bagel Gang**

A longer version of our popular but shorter Fox Canyon Loop hike. Park along Painter's Path near the popular Bump & Grind/Hopalong Cassidy Trailhead. Head south on the latter trail, gaining almost all the elevation in the first 30 minutes or so. At a saddle, where the Hopalong Cassidy and the Herb Jeffries trails meet, continue southwesterly, winding sinuously, almost levelly, for a mile or so, before descending to the trail along the wash. Follow that trail north to Painter's Path and back to your vehicle.

## **HERB JEFFRIES TRAIL**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 3 miles; gain, 723 feet; area, Palm Desert; duration of hike, 1.5-2 hours; drive time one way; 20 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 24, 2014, Ray Cheeney**

Our trek will begin at the Target Store on Highway 111 where we will follow the drainage canal for a one half mile warm up, then connect with the Herb Jeffries Trail. Although this hike is not long, the steep switchbacks and occasional loose gravel make the trail "Moderate/Advanced". We will then proceed to the "Gate" of the Bump and Grind, where the Herb Jeffries trail ends, then return the same way back. HIKING POLES ARE SUGGESTED FOR THE STEEP DESCENT.

**HIDDEN CANYON**

**EASY:** 4 miles; gain; 200 feet; area, La Quinta Cove; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: March 15, 2019, Phillip Ferranti & Heather Gehring**

Please welcome Philip Ferranti, founder of Coachella Valley Hiking Club and author of "140 Great Hikes in and Near Palm Springs", who will lead club members on an easy 4 mile hike alongside a flower-strewn trail (Bear Creek Oasis) and into "Hidden Canyon" to see geology and wildflower display. A great hike to take pictures and enjoy a leisurely stroll in the morning.

**LA QUINTA COVE TO QUARRY GOLF COURSE OVERLOOK**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED:** 4.3 miles; gain, 1,130 feet; duration of hike, 4 hours; area: La Quinta Cove; drive time one way, 15 minutes

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: January 21, 2022, Bendel/Biewer/Biewer/Farrell**

This hike begins along the base of the Santa Rosa foothills at the far southeast side of La Quinta Cove. We will be traversing rocky terrain as we steadily climb the winding trail to our first overlook of the hike, where we will have a bird's eye view of Quarry Country Club Golf Course, the Salton Sea, and Coachella Valley farms. A snack break stop here gives us time to admire the sweeping vistas. Afterwards, we will descend to the intersection of the Overlook and Cove to Lake Trails and hike south to our second scenic overlook. For the return to our cars, we will retrace our route on the Cove to Lake Trail, continue through the wash and end with a short climb up to the parking lot. Sturdy hiking boots, hiking poles and plenty of water are highly recommended. This is not a beginner hike.

**INDIO HILLS WALKABOUT**

**EASY/MODERATE:** 3.5 miles; gain: 400 feet; area, Indio; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 15 minutes

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 2025, Karen Bieber**

**Prev: Karen Bieber**

Beginning where Varner (Avenue 42) meets Golf Course Parkway is an easy hike that ends in a narrow canyon in the Indio Hills. The hike begins with a moderate climb up some small hills adjacent to the golf course. Once at the top of the rolling hills, with a view of the Indio Hills, we drop down onto a desert plain and go a short distance into the Indio Hills. We find and follow a canyon into the hills, passing past interesting rock formations that I call Hobbit Town. We end at the junction with a narrow canyon that has been barricaded by boulders. Returning by the same route, we can take a small detour to view the only waterski lake in the Coachella Valley, a jewel of a lake (manmade) surrounded by lovely homes in a VERY gated community. Then we proceed back to the cars.

## **LIVING DESERT MESA FLOOR LOOP**

**EASY: 1.6 miles; gain, negligible; area, Living Desert; duration of hike, 45 minutes; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 20, 2016, Carol Thomas**

On this lovely day in February, come join me for an easy walking the living Desert Mesa! This will be a 1.6 mile walk on the Middle Loop of The Living Desert floor beyond the gates of the grounds. Water and hats a must. After, you are invited to stay and enjoy the wonderful Living Desert animals, gardens and exhibits. (Please plan on driving separately should you wish to remain and enjoy all TLD has to offer). You might like to see the giraffe feeding after the hike, though there is now a fee for it; \$4 /members, \$5/non members; if not, there are many other wonderful exhibits to see. Optional coffee afterwards to be decided by group. Please contact leader to reserve a space as TLD needs to know the number of people coming.

## **LONG CANYON TRAIL**

**ADVANCED: 10.5 miles; gain, 1200 ft; area, Desert Hot Springs; duration of hike, 5-6 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 15, 2021, Brian Johnson**

This hike will follow approximately half the route of the soon-to-be-completed Desert Hot Springs to Joshua Tree NP trail. The lower trailhead where we will start is constructed and trail signage is present for the first mile; thereafter we will follow a clear path defined by the Long Canyon wash. From the trailhead the path proceeds Northerly and crosses into Joshua Tree NP after about a half mile. The wash trail is open with coarse sand footing. There are no bush-whacking, scrambling or exposed slides with which to be concerned. This canyon is unique in that it becomes wider and more open as one ascends the trail, and the trail is a modest 4% slope. You get the sense of isolation in an immense valley. Cacti and succulents become common after two miles. At three miles the trail turns left to the NW direction and plunges deeper into Joshua Tree NP. Slightly beyond three miles we'll observe an interesting skeletal formation in a rock and soon thereafter Yucca plants and birdlife will become common along the trail. Just past the five mile point we will stop for a quick lunch in a Yucca flat before retracing our path back to the trailhead.

Bring lots of water and apply sunscreen before the hike, there are just a few shady spots along this route. Hiking poles will be beneficial in the coarse sand.

## **MORROW TRAIL (COVE TO LAKE)**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6.7 miles; gain: 930 feet; area: La Quinta Cove; duration of hike: 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 2024, Mark McCulley**

**Prev: Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel, Robert Heckert, Jim Biewer, Pat Fonstad, MonMornHk&BagelGang, Ken Linville**

This hike starts at the south end of La Quinta Cove and ends just before reaching Lake Cahuilla where the Coachella Canal drains into the lake, where we will turn around and hike back. Rates Moderate/Advanced due to length. Short sections of the trail are steep and rocky, therefore hiking boots are advisable and hiking poles helpful. The trail heads south-southeasterly along the foothills of Martinez Mt, traversing sandy washes and low lying rocky hills and passing the Quarry Golf Course where Big Horn Sheep are often grazing.

## **RANCHO MIRAGE LOOP; Roadrunner/Chuckwalla/Jackrabbit Trails**

**MODERATE: 3.5 miles; gain, 670 feet; duration of hike, 1.5 hours**

**Area, Rancho Mirage; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 2025, Warner Paige**

**Prev: Chris Vanderputten, Duane Paschall, MonMornHk&BagelGang**

This loop hike starts at the Rancho Mirage City Hall Parking Lot, passes through Cancer Survivor's Park, and ascends the Jack Rabbit Trail to the Bighorn Overlook. Continuing, we'll follow the Chuckwalla Trail around the foothills to the Ritz Carlton Hotel and a short stretch of Frank Sinatra Drive and then return to the cars via the Roadrunner Trail. (an optional addition adds 0.5 miles, 30 feet elevation, and 20 minutes with an exploration north along an unnamed ridge trail extending from the Chuckwalla trail that ends overlooking Hwy 111.). There are great views of the valley along the trail and from the top. Often done in reverse, going up the Roadrunner Trail to the Chuckwalla, and then down via the Jack Rabbit.

## **RANDALL HENDERSON TRAIL**

**EASY/MODERATE: 2.8 mile loop; gain: 500 feet; duration of Hike, 2 Hours; area, Palm Desert; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: February, 2025, Lynne/Ed Hopkins**

**Prev: Suzy/Paul Pendolino, Lynne/Ed Hopkins, Laura Marshall, Cameron/Ashford, Mike Gittleman, Myrna Harris, MonMornHkBagelGang, Carol Thomas**

The hike begins in the Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Mountains Visitors Center on Hwy. 74. (you may wish to visit the center after the hike). There are a couple of rocky ascents and sandy washes that we will be traversing. We have combined three trail loops – the Wash, Cholla, and Canyon Loops, which cover a typical low-elevation desert environment, as well as remote canyons. We generally keep to the left at each trail junction, eventually reaching the high point of the trail overlooking Palm Desert Cove. There are beautiful views of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains to the south and west, and this hike is especially gorgeous during the spring wildflower season. We'll see a variety of plants and animals (including Bighorn sheep or desert tortoises, if we're lucky). Hiking poles recommended..

**EASY #1: 2 miles; gain, 350 feet; duration of hike, 1.5 hours,**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: December 4, 2018, Chris Vanderputten**

Come join us for an easy trek into beautiful surroundings. We'll see a variety of plants and animals (including Bighorn sheep or desert tortoises, if we're lucky). This is a trail, not a paved walk. You will need to be stable on your feet. Hiking poles and boots are recommended.

**EASY #2: 1.5 - 2 miles; gain, 300-400 feet; duration of hike, 2.5 hours,**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: January 2025, Kerry Berman**

**Prev: Kerry Berman**

This is a slow/easy interpretive hike in the Santa Rosa mountains with the Indio Hills and Palm Desert below. We will follow the wash up the trail and hike the ridge back. This is a great interpretive trail to talk about Geology, History, Flora and Fauna, and the history of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument. We'll see lots of Jumping Cholla, Desert Lavender, Beaver Tail & Silver Cholla cactus. We'll get to observe igneous and metamorphic rocks, known as "intrusive rocks", that created the Peninsular Mountain Range. Hats, sunscreen and cameras (because of the great views) are suggested for this hike. Water and closed toe shoes are a must.

## **RAVEN HILL LOOP**

**EASY/MODERATE: 5 miles; gain, 600 feet; area, LaQuinta; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: December 2024, Don Bailey**

**Prev: Don Bailey, Chris Vanderputten, Mark McCulley, Jim Biewer, MonMornHk&BagelGang, Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel, Heather Gehring**

We will start at the La Quinta Cove trailhead for a gentle ascent up and around Raven Hill Loop. This hike starts on the Bear Creek Canyon Trailhead in La Quinta cove, turns left over a spillway just below a set of steep steps, heads directly toward Raven Hill, joins the Boo Hoff trail, then, leaving the Boo Hoff, circles clock-wise around Raven Hill. Enjoy the nice views overlooking the town of La Quinta. Great views of the Coachella Valley on the return, surrounded on 3 sides by beautiful mountains. Mountain sheep have been seen behind Raven Hill. Can also be done in reverse. Hiking poles and shoes with good tread recommended to prevent slipping. Bring plenty of water.

## **ROCK (THE)**

**ADVANCED: 7.3 miles; gain, 1200 feet; area, Sky Valley; duration of hike, 4.5 hours; drive time one way, 15 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: February 1, 2022, Brian Johnson**

Are you ready for a cross-country trek to a unique, seldom seen rock formation that looks like a miniature Devil's Tower? This hike starts at the Deception Canyon wash just off Dillon road. We will park along the road (note - due to limited road shoulder parking we will take only one car) and enter into the throat of Deception Canyon following various ribboned washes in a northerly direction. After two miles we will cross into Joshua Tree NP (JTNP). The canyon scenery is magnificent, offering 360-degree views of the upper Yucca hills of JTNP and the snow-capped San Jacinto Mountains. After another mile of hiking we will turn east and ascend into a tributary wash. Your senses become shrouded in quiet solitude as we trek a half mile into this beautiful box canyon. From afar you will see "The Rock" and appreciate its similarity to the famous butte in Wyoming. Once arrived, we will again marvel at how absolutely quiet it is in the box canyon. We will enjoy our snacks while viewing the The Rock's multi mineral surface features. Our return will be back along the same route. The terrain on this hike is uneven; therefore, ankle height hiking boots and hiking poles are recommended. Also, due to its cross-country nature, full length pants, long sleeve shirts and gloves are recommended.

## **SALTON SEA BAT CAVES**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3.0 miles; gain, 300 ft; area, Salton Sea; duration of hike, 2 hrs; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: March 2025, Beverly Hackett & Warner Paige**

**Prev: Shirley Hastie and Bill Pivar**

This an interesting hike...you'll like it. Generally considered an easy to moderate route with a loop trail, it takes an average of 2 hours to complete. This trail is great for exploring, and it's unlikely you'll encounter any other people while hiking to the butte. Don't worry – we are unlikely to see bats as they are nocturnal! As the only caves around Salton Sea area, they are south of the San Andreas Fault in an area known as Desert Buttes. The trail starts near a drainage culvert by a cell tower. In the distance you can see an American flag atop the butte – our destination after exploring a series of caves. Six distinct voids large enough to walk into and one where you can pass completely through. Climbing atop the butte, we can wander through the ups and downs of the butte and find the flag and a bench, pausing to see terrific views of the Salton Sea. These caves were created some time ago during the many times when the Salton Basin was inundated with earlier lakes. The waves were responsible for the tunneling of the caves. Optional lunch at the Ski Inn and a ride around Bombay Beach, CA... an experience.

## **SALTON SEA/DOS PALMAS DISCOVERY ADVENTURE**

**EASY: 1.0 miles; gain, nil; area, Salton Sea; duration of hike, 3 hrs; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: Feb 23, 2021, Kerry Berman**

We will begin our interpretive adventure driving 35 miles to North Shore Marina where we will talk about the creation and journey of the Salton Sea up to present. Then we'll head to Dos Palmas for a short walk around the Oasis. Cameras, hats, and sun screen highly recommend. Water & closed-toe shoes are a must.

## **SHADOW LAKE & CROSS**

**EASY/MODERATE: 4.4 miles; gain, 220 feet; area, Northeast Indio; duration of hike, 2.5 hrs; drive time one way, 20 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: 2017/18 season, Monday Morn Hike&Bagel Gang**

We will start by trekking westerly along the Coachella Valley Canal, then traverse northerly into low-lying hills until we reach a cross from which a great view of the posh Shadow Lake community is available. We then descend to a protection levee and proceed westerly around the Lake during which time even more views of this upscale gated complex can be seen. Turning around, we will then head back by traversing through the hills along a different route to our parked cars.

**EASY: 3 miles; gain, 100 feet; duration of hike, 1.5 hrs**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: Mar, 2024, Suzy/Paul Pendolino**

**Prev: Suzy/Paul Pendolino, Brian Johnson**

This hike starts at the Indio Badlands trailhead just off Avenue 42 and is a scaled down version of the hike described above. We will experience the unique beauty of Shadow Lake by viewing it from its northern, western and southern perspectives. We will begin by crossing the Coachella Valley Canal, then traverse .7 miles to the cross vista offering the northern view. From there, the trail will descend 100' to merge with the Lake's eastern levee. We will follow the levee northwesterly and to our left will be splendid western views of the lake and lakeshore homes. After another .8 miles, we'll reach the Lake's upper end and will return along the same path for the Lake's southern views. We'll ascend 100' to the vista cross (again) for our final view of the lake, then proceed southerly back to the trailhead.

## **SHADOW MOUNTAIN**

**ADVANCED: 5.1 miles; gain, 1950 feet; duration of hike 3-4 hours; area, Palm Desert; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: Jan 18, 2022, Pat Fonstad**

**Prev: Brian Johnson, Ray Cheeney, John Beringer**

This hike starts on the Homestead Trail which will ascend very steeply to the Hopalong Cassidy Trail. Our route will follow the Hopalong Cassidy Trail for a short distance wherein we will intersect with the Shadow Mountain Trail. The peak will be reached after about a mile and a half and tops out at 2,200 feet. A strenuous hike but the views are worth it. The descent has lots of big step-downs and is tougher on people with shorter legs! Sturdy shoes are a real advantage on this hike as are hiking pole. Bring plenty of water.

## **SUN CITY CANYON**

**EASY/MODERATE: 4.5 miles; gain, 600 feet; duration of hike 2-3 hours; area, Coachella Valley Preserve; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: Feb 8, 2021, Gloria Kapp**

We start on Coyote Song Way, walking part way on gravel service roads leading left of the bluff surrounding the reservoir. Then we find a social trail leading very gradually up the alluvial plain to a wide, remote canyon parallel to Pushawalla. Barrel cactus and fabulous views on the easy sloping return walk.

## **SUN CITY WALK**

**EASY: 2.75 - 4 miles; gain 100 feet; area, North Channel - Sun City; duration of hike, 1.5 hours; drive time one way, 3 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: April 9, 2014, Ken Place**

This hike is entirely on level, soft, mowed grass with only a few short inclines and declines. We'll park near the Falsetto Dog Park inside the northeast corner of Sun City. We'll make two laps from the east side of the dog park enclosure to the east side of the San Gorgonio's No. 10 fairway, from one side of the North Channel to the other side, and back. That's a 1.25 mile round trip. Those who chose, may make another lap and increase the hike to 4.0 distance. This hike is an answer to Club members who feel we don't offer enough Easy hikes. Since the walk is entirely on soft grass, it's easier on the joints and less tiring than walking in sand and over rocks. It's much more comfortable than walking the sidewalks of Sun City for exercise, and avoids traffic noise and odors. This area is also used by golfers for practicing, but a few simple rules as to its use will let us walk there without conflict.

## **TERRA LAGO RESERVOIR**

**MODERATE: 5 miles, elevation gain: 600 feet; area: Indio Hills, east end; duration of hike: 2 1/4 hours; drive time one way: 20 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 20, 2016, Burt Falk, Ken Linville**

This hike, a first for the SCPDHC, begins in a small parking area north of the intersection of 42nd St. and Golf Center Parkway. Crossing the All American Canal, it continues to a hill overlooking the posh, gated Shadow Lake community. From there we head across a small valley into the eastern-most section of the Indio Hills, site of the Terra Lago Water Tank. Great views, interesting wind-caved mountains. Hike Leader Emeritus Ken Linville, now a Terra Lago resident will co-lead this route which he pioneered.

## **TWO BUNCH PALMS**

**EASY: 0.5+ miles; gain, 100 feet; duration of hike, 2 hours**

**Area, Desert Hot Springs; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date and leader of most recent hike: March 2, 2021, Kerry Berman**

You will discover one of the most historical developments in the Coachella Valley. Two Bunch sits on the North American Tectonic Plate directly on the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault. Learn the History of Two Bunch & Desert Hot Springs (DHS). This is more of an interpretive walk. We will be just outside of Two Bunch Palms Resort. DHS has the best drinking water in the world, learn why. Please note that space is limited to 10 current Hiking Club Members! It's getting warmer; don't forget water!

## **WIND FARM ENERGY TOUR**

**EASY: short walks from car; gain, nil; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; area, San Gorgonio Pass; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date and leader of most recent hike: November 2024, Kerry Berman**

**Prev: Kerry Berman**

One day in the near future our valley might be referred to as the "Renewable Capital of America". The wind energy is a major contributor to our renewable. Approximately 2200 wind

turbines generating enough power for approximately 240,000 homes are in the valley. We will talk about Wind, Solar, Geothermal, Hydro Electric, and Bio-mass energies. This is somewhat unique, mostly carpooling with 3 stops. We get up close and personal with the largest wind turbines in the San Gorgonio Pass. Bring water; cameras are a must.

## **PALM SPRINGS AND INDIAN CANYONS**

### **ANDREAS CANYON**

**EASY: Length, 2 miles; gain: 200 ft.; area, Indian Canyons, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 2 - 3 hours; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 23, 2022, Kerry Berman**

Learn about the Native American Cahuilla Tribe, plant usage, and geology of the canyon. This beautiful canyon at the base of the San Jacinto Mountains is on Tribal land and named after John Joseph Andreas (Cahuilla Leader). Year round running stream, beautiful rock formations (1000+ yr. old mortars), lots of flora, and pretty wild flowers in the spring. Will discuss Indian Culture and Pioneer History. Entrance fee Senior Rate to Indian Canyons is \$7.

### **ARABY TRAIL**

**MODERATE: 6 miles; gain, 1200 feet; area, south of Palm Springs at Hwy. 111; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date and leader of most recent hike: February 21, 2022, Laura Marshall**

**Prev: Mike Gittleman, Ken Place**

We'll hike the trail that passes the Bob Hope entertainment house and continues above and beyond it to the southeast. Two miles from the start point, a local summit gives panoramic views including the airport, all of old Palm Springs and the west end of the Coachella Valley. We'll return back on the same trail. The trail is moderately steep and rough in some places. It is a popular hillside hike, so we'll see others on the trail. Hat, hiking poles, sun screen and water recommended.

### **ARABY, BURNS, SHANNON, EARL HENDERSON TRAILS**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6.5 miles; gain, 1200 ft.; area, Santa Rosa mountains; duration of hike, 3 - 4 hours; drive time one way, 40 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: January 7, 2022, Don Bailey**

**Prev: Myrna Harris**

This hike gives us gorgeous wilderness and valley views as it completes a loop around Bob Hope's house. It starts on the Araby trail and quickly ascends the canyon overlooking Bob's house and those of many other stars. The trail then goes away from views of houses onto the Burns Trail and into views of wilderness and many other trails. We will hike down then up again to find the Shannon Trail with its wonderful views of Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. The Shannon is rocky and has a steep one-mile descent to the Earl Henderson Trail. The Henderson takes us to the Palm Canyon wash that takes us back to our cars, with a good chance of wildflowers in the spring. Bring plenty of water. Some rough spots so poles are a good idea!

### **CATHEDRAL CANYON/WILD HORSE/GARSTIN TRAILS**

**ADVANCED: 8.5 miles; gain 1,800' starting in Palm Springs / 1,600' starting in Cathedral;**

**area, Palm Springs/Cathedral City Foothills; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike; December 14, 2012, Ken Linville & Burt Falk**

This will be a key exchange hike with one group starting in Cathedral City Cove and the other group starting in South Palm Springs on Barona Road. Interesting trek due to somewhat of a roller coaster profile which is generally located southwesterly of Murray Hill, southerly of the Araby Trail, east of Palm Canyon Wash and near 1,476 foot Smoke Tree Mountain. Good views of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains and Palm Canyon.

### **CAHUILLA CANYON TRAIL**

**MODERATE: 3.5 miles; gain, 866 feet; area, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike; March 2025, Robert Heckert; Prev, Robert Heckert**

We will park on South Palm Canyon Drive near the trail head for the Lykken (South) Trail. Thanks to the "Save the Oswit Canyon" organization, this trail is preserved and again open to the public. The Cahuilla Canyon hike begins with a gentle walk, through scrub and boulders as it winds its way up the Oswit canyon. We may see some Big Horn sheep grazing here in the meadow. As we ascend, we will cross a dry creek several times as we follow its course up the ravine. The trail is marked with dots of yellow paint and easy to follow, up to a point. After the dots stop, it becomes a very rocky scramble to a large granite slab. Great views of the valley there, before we turn around and head down. **THIS HIKE IS NOT FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNCOMFORTABLE CLIMBING UP AND DOWN OR ROCK SCRAMBLING. WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING. PLEASE ASSESS YOUR COMFORT LEVELS CAREFULLY. GLOVES, POLES (optional), AND PLENTY OF WATER.**

### **EAST HENDERSON TRAIL**

**EASY/MODERATE: 1 mile; gain, 400 feet; area, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike; December 2024, Kerry Berman**

Just below Bob Hope's house and just above Smoke Tree Ranch in the Canyon Country Club area. The first 15 minutes of hike are pretty steep and moderately cardio so we will stop a few times to look out over Palm Springs, The Wind Farms, and San Andreas Fault. Fascinating history and geology. Great photo opportunities. Hiking sticks might be helpful. After the incline, it is smooth sailing the rest of the trail.

### **EAST FORK/VANDEVENTER TRAILS**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 7 miles; gain, 1000 feet; area, Indian Canyons; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike; December 10, 2019, Ross Vandeputten**

The hike begins at the Trading Post and takes you up through a palm oasis for about a mile. The East Fork trail then progresses up a wash for another 2 miles that includes scrambling up multiple dry waterfalls. This section of the overall hike is considered to be the most strenuous. This trail continues on a high plateau for 2 miles with vistas of the San Jacinto Mountains, Palm Springs and Indian Canyons. We will then join the Vandeventer trail and continue the last 2 miles returning via a steep set of switchbacks back down into the palm oasis before returning to the cars. **REMEMBER THAT THE ENTRANCE FEE TO INDIAN CANYONS IS \$7.00 (Sr Rate)**

## **FERN CANYON/VANDEVENTER TRAILS LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6 miles; gain, 1000 feet; area, Indian Canyons; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike; February 2025, Keven Rivette**

This a moderate/advanced 5.9-mile loop on the Cahuilla Indians Reservation. The trail includes a beautiful oasis and climbs into the mountains for incredible panoramic views of the San Jacinto Mountain range. Bring plenty of water and a snack as we will be stopping at the halfway point for a rest and the snack. This trail is considered by some as a hidden jewel of the desert. NOTE: this trail is on the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Reservation and has a \$7.00 charge per person.

## **GARSTIN-BOGART LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 4 miles; gain, 1000 feet; area, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 11, 2019, Monday Morn Hike&Bagel Gang; Prev: Duane Paschall**

Beginning at the Garstin Trail Head, we ascend steadily to the ridge. (For a 4.5 mile, 1160 ft gain version of this hike, we divert to a peak where we add our "Wishing Rock" to a large pile of others.) We will then proceed to the junction where this trail meets the Bogart and Wildhorse Trails. From there you see Palm Springs and its final housing developments which adjoin Indian lands, and gaze at Palm Canyon, the beautiful undeveloped Indian territory which reaches for miles into the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Range of mountains. We then descend the Bogart Trail finally entering a development for a short walk as we proceed back to the cars. Hiking poles can be helpful. Bring plenty of water.

## **GARSTIN-SHANNON-EARL HENDERSON LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 4.5/3.6 miles; gain, 1430/930 feet; area, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: February 2025, Kevin Rivette**

**Prev: Kevin Rivette, Ross Vanderputten, Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel**

These are two of several beautiful variations of hiking loops offered by the unique interconnections of crisscrossing trails found in and around Murray Hill, on the eastern side of Palm Canyon. We begin by climbing the Garstin Trail, which will get your heart rate up, until it levels off. For the longer hike, we take a spur trail to Cahuilla Peak where you can add your "wishing rock" to others, and get a view of Bob Hope's house from a distance. After returning from the peak, we move onto the Shannon Trail and then descend down the Earl Henderson Trail back to our starting point. This loop has magnificent views of the Palm Springs area and the nearby towering San Jacinto Mountains. Blooming wildflowers in the spring. Bring your camera, snacks, and plenty of water. This trail is rocky, so good hiking footwear is a must – hiking shoes/boot recommended. Also note that the first mile of the hike can be a challenge, think advanced hike here, as that is all the elevation change. As they say – the rest of the hike is downhill - mostly! HIKING POLES ARE RECOMMENDED

## **JANE'S HOFFBRAU OASIS LOOP TRAIL**

**MODERATE: 3.6 miles; gain: 850 feet; area: Palm Springs; duration of hike, 3-4 hours; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: October 2024, Robert Heckert**

We will park near Von's located at Highway 111 and Gene Autry Trail. We will then proceed up a road for a short distance before turning west and going steeply up a connector trail. We will continue on various connector trails which wind around to our max elevation of ~835 ft. We will descend sharply to the Oasis (663 ft) and rest. This is a beautiful Oasis with many Palm trees and running water. Then back up to the connector trails and down a rough road back to the parking area completing the loop. Bring hiking poles, trail snacks, cameras, and water.

**LYKKEN TRAIL (NORTH), KEY EXCHANGE**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6 miles; gain: 1400 feet; area: Palm Springs; duration of hike, 5 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: February 17, 2016, Nina & Lee Thomas**

**Prev: Ross Vanderputten**

This will be a key exchange hike with vehicles at each Trailhead. The south end of this trail starts at the west end of Ramon Rd, with one group that heads north up to the end of the Museum Trail then in a short distance intersects the famous Skyline trail that climbs up the the tram. This is the high point of our hike with views of Palm Springs and the Little San Bernardino and Santa Rosa mountain ranges. Our trail then goes down and across Chino Canyon, up over a foothill and down to the north end of the trail at Cielo Dr. The other group will start at this end and travel south.

**LYKKEN (NORTH)/MUSEUM TRAIL**

**ADVANCED: 5 miles; gain, 1700 feet; area, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 2.5-3 hours; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: January 28, 2020, Mike Gittleman**

**Prev: Heather Gehring**

We will park in a ramp next to the Palm Springs Art Museum and then hike up the Museum Trail, which after a mile branches out to the North Lykken Trail. The first mile is a 1000 feet elevation gain, so we will take our time! Our reward will be picnic tables and a scenic overlook at the junction to the North Lykken. The rest of the hike to the south is relatively easy. We end up on Ramon Road and will finish our hike with about a one mile walk on Indian Canyon Drive to our optional lunch at Las Casuelas Mexican Restaurant in Palm Springs. Those not wishing to stop for lunch should arrange their own transportation.

**LYKKEN (NORTH)/SKYLINE TRAIL**

**ADVANCED: 11 miles; gain, 4000 feet; area, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 5-6 hours; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 23, 2016, March 7,2015, Ray Cheeney**

We will start on the South end of the North Lykken trail and proceed North about 2 miles then connect with the Skyline Trail. Our goal is to reach 4,300 feet which will provide us with a net 4,000 feet of gain. As we ascend the views become outstanding as they reach out over the Coachella Valley. We will hike through a varied array of shrubbery, foliage and trees. Once reaching our goal we will descend over the same route. PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL HIKE LEADER IN ADVANCE OF THE HIKE

**LYKKEN (SOUTH) TRAIL**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6 miles; gain: 1000 feet; area: Palm Springs; duration of hike: 4 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 2025, Ross Vanderputten**

**Prev: Pat Fonstad, Bendel/Biewer/Biewer/Farrell, Ross Vanderputten, Paschall/ Marshall, Ken Linville**

We will start at the southerly trailhead west of South Palm Canyon Drive. Our trek will traverse to the north and go steeply up with switchbacks. After the switchbacks the ground levels off and we walk across a plateau to the picnic tables which will be our destination. There will be great views of Tahquitz Canyon, Little San Bernardino and Santa Rosa mountains as well as Palm Springs. After reaching the high point we will stop for a snack and then return by the same route to the cars. (This trail can also be hiked as a **car shuttle or key exchange**, ending at the trailhead near Tahquitz Canyon Visitors Center. 4 1/2 miles and 3 hour duration)

## **MURRAY CANYON TRAIL**

**MODERATE: 5 miles; gain, 500 feet; area, Indian Canyons; duration of hike, 3.5 hrs; drive time one way, 40 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: February 2025, Hackett/Paige**

**Prev: Lynne/Ed Hopkins, Rosen/Harris, Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel, MonMornHk&BagelGang, Ross Vanderputten, John Beringer**

This out-and-back hike begins through a beautiful desert setting for a mile, and then takes you deep into the lower reaches of the San Jacinto Mountains via a palm-enclosed usually year-round canyon stream with more than a dozen well-maintained crossings. (May not have water in it depending on snow pack above and rain levels). Desert willow, assorted cacti and some cottonwoods can be seen. Also several beautiful rock formations. Participants must be comfortable with walking on uneven rocks (or a palm-tree trunk) across the stream crossings and several steep but short inclines, leading to the Moderate hike rating. The trail ends at the first of the Seven Sisters waterfalls, a beautiful and restful spot. Bring hiking poles for the stream crossings, cameras and snacks to eat while we rest on rocks near Seven Sisters.

Note: Entrance fee to Indian Canyons \$7.00 for Seniors (62+)

**MURRAY/COFFMAN LOOP: MODERATE: 4.6 miles; gain, 620 feet; duration, 4 hours**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: April, 2022, Bendel/Biewer/Biewer/Farrell**

This version of the hike swings left at the first Palm Grove onto the Coffman Trail. This portion of our loop takes us to the ridge above Murray Canyon providing beautiful views of Palm Springs and the Indian Canyons. The Coffman Trail then drops back into the Murray Canyon trail where we will turn left and follow it to the Seven Sisters Waterfall, before retracing the Murray Canyon trail back to our start.

## **MURRAY HILL (PEAK)**

### **1. via Araby Trail:**

**ADVANCED: 8 miles; gain, 2100 feet; area, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: Feb 19,2021, Brian Johnson**

**Prev: Ray Cheeney, John Beringer**

This hike starts on the Araby Trail dubbed the "Trail to the Stars" as it climbs above the Bob Hope Estate and former home of Steve McQueen. We will intersect with the Wild Horse Trail to make our assault on Murray Peak while enjoying views of Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Palm Canyon and the San Jacinto Mountains to the West. Return via same trails. Don't forget to bring water, snacks and hiking poles.

### **2. via Garstin Trail:**

**ADVANCED: 7.1 miles; gain, 2100 feet; duration of hike, 4.5 hours**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: January 2025, Robert Heckert**

### **Prev: Robert Heckert**

We will park on Barona Rd at the Garstin trailhead and then take the Garstin trail (a steep climb) to a meadow at 1,345 ft. After walking through the flat meadow, we will join the Wild Horse trail, which will take us to the top of Murray Hill (the highest peak in the valley). After enjoying the views and taking some snacks we will return via the same route to the cars. Bring hiking poles (optional) and lots of water. This is a strenuous hike, but we will take several short breaks along the way.

### **3. from Von's:**

**ADVANCED: 8.3 miles; gain, 2300 feet; duration of hike, 5 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 8, 2021, Pat Fonstad**

### **Prev: Ray Cheeney**

We will park near Von's located at Highway 111 and Gene Autry Trail. We will then proceed up a road for a short distance before turning West and going steeply up a connector trail. We will continue on various connector trails which wind down into a canyon with secluded palm oasis. Our trek will continue through the bottom of this primary canyon to the beginning of the Wild Horse Trail to the Peak of Murray Hill. We will descend the peak using the Clara Burgess Trail to the canyon wash then back to the parking area via connector trails. RSVP required.

## **MURRAY HILL FOOTHILLS**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 3.5 miles; gain, 900 feet; area, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 25 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: January 17, 2020, Duane Paschall**

We'll start at the parking lot next to the shopping center located at the junction of Gene Autry Dr. and Hwy. 111. The road begins thru a gate giving access to the trail network below Murray Hill. The trail turns sharply to the right up a reasonably short steep section which quickly provides a view of Palm Springs. After crossing a ridge the trail turns westerly into a large deep canyon with multiple palms in the bottom. We'll descend to the canyon floor where the trail dead ends into a serene Palm Oasis surrounded by rock bluffs providing a sense of solitude which we will enjoy. We'll return a short distance to the main trail which takes us to the Head of the Clara Burgess Trail. At that point we'll ascend a ridge taking us to a view point overlooking Palm Springs and the westerly end of the valley where we will loop back on a different trail to our beginning. **Don't forget your water. Will try to accommodate moderate hikers.**

## **PALM AND ANDREAS CANYONS**

**EASY: 2.5 miles; gain, 150 feet; area, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 40 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: February, 2018, Bill Pivar; Prev, Bill P & Shirley Hastie**

Not to be confused with Tahquitz Canyon, we explore breathtaking canyons in the South Palm Springs area hiking along rushing streams. Be ready to photograph sparkling waterfalls and magnificent rock formations. Two of nature's most beautiful canyons in one great hike! Bring your lunch for a picnic in a Palm grove. **HIKING STICKS AND BOOTS RECOMMENDED. SENIOR PARK ENTRANCE FEE FOR THE CANYONS IS \$7.**

## **PALM CANYON**

**EASY: 2.25 miles; gain, 200 feet; duration of hike, 3 hours**

**Area, Palm Springs; drive time one way, 40 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 9,2021, Kerry Berman**

This is an easy hike up the Palm Canyon River to Palm Oasis. We'll talk about Native

American History of the Aqua Caliente Indians and learn about the geology, plants and animals in the canyons. We might get shoes a little wet when crossing the river. This is a great field trip! Kerry takes 4th- 6th graders on this hike. There will be wonderful photo opportunities. Hiking poles recommended. They help keep those shoes drier during river crossings! ENTRANCE FEE TO INDIAN CANYONS IS \$7.00 (Senior Rate). VETERANS WITH MILITARY ID RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION

**EASY/MODERATE: 3.5 miles; gain, 350 feet; duration of hike, 3.25 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 3, 2016, Kerry Berman**

Gorgeous Mount & Valley Views. Lots of History, plants, animals and geological formations to talk about. Interpretive hike...slow walk, loose gravel. Largest California Fan Palm Oasis in the world. \$7 per person entry fee to canyon

### **PALM CANYON RIVER WALK**

**EASY: 3 miles; gain: minimal; area, Palm Springs; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike, March 11, 2015, Kerry Berman**

Start at the horse trailer parking lot just before Palm Canyon. Walk along the river up into Palm Oasis where picnic benches Cahuilla Kish and Ramada are located.

### **PALM CANYON/VICTOR TRAIL LOOP**

**MODERATE: 2.5-5 miles; gain, 250-400 feet; area, Indian Canyons; duration of hike, 2-3 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: February 11, 2019, Monday Morn Hike&Bagel Gang;**

**Prev: John Beringer**

From the Trading Post we will follow the Palm Canyon trail along a small stream through beautiful Palm Canyon, then cross the stream and travel through another palm oasis before meeting the Victor Trail. The Victor Trail will take us up above Palm Canyon with outstanding views of the mountains all around us. The trail continues along the ridge line then descends to a wash below. We can either loop back to the Trading Post or head east for an additional mile or so and 500' of extra gain to beautiful Fern Canyon. Hiking poles will be helpful on the Victor Trail. Entrance fee to Indian Canyons \$7.00 pp Senior Rate

### **PALM SPRINGS HISTORICAL WALK**

**EASY: 2 miles; gain, nil; duration of hike, 3 hours; area, Palm Springs; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 2025, Kerry Berman**

**Prev: Kerry Berman**

This will be a historical interpretive walk covering the creation of the Coachella Valley, Native American Cahuilla Indians, Pioneers & first Palms Springs Settlers, and Development of Palm Springs. We start at the historical Village Green, then off to the historic La Plaza & the Plaza Theater, and the Wellwood Murray library on our way to the first non-native cemetery, the Wellwood-Murry Cemetery, where many pioneers are buried. Limited to first 15 members.

Please donate \$15 dollars to the Palm Springs Historical Society. It is tax deductible. We don't want to compete with the Society's fabulous walks. Bring hat, comfortable shoes, one bottle of water and your camera.

### **STONE POOLS TRAIL**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6.5 miles; gain, 1200 feet; area, Indian Canyons; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

### **Date&leader of most recent hike: December 13, 2018, Ross Vanderputten**

The hike begins at the Trading Post and takes you up through a palm oasis for about a mile. The trail to the Stone Pools then progresses up a steep switchback for about a half mile, which is the most strenuous part of the hike. This trail continues on a high plateau for 2 miles with vistas of the San Jacinto Mountains, Palm Springs and Indian Canyons. There are many interesting desert plants along the way. After 3 miles the trail drops down into a gorge containing many rocks shaped by ribbons of water racing through it over many years. These are the stone pools of the Palm Canyon Creek. The presence of water in this area will be weather dependent. We will return to the Trading Post and our cars by the same trail. **REMEMBER THAT THE ENTRANCE FEE TO INDIAN CANYONS IS \$7.00 (Senior Rate)**

### **TAHQUITZ CANYON**

**EASY/MODERATE: 2 1/2 miles' gain, 400 feet; area, Tahquitz Canyon Palm Springs; duration of hike, 2 hours, drive time one way, 40 mins**

**Park Entrance Fee: \$10.00 - (\$10 fee will be collected in advance of hike at Lakeview Parking Lot)**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 16, 2017, Bill Pivar; Prev: Bill Pivar & Shirley Hastie**

We will first view a video on the history of the Canyon in the beautiful Visitor's Center. Our Ranger-led tour then takes us deep into one of the most beautiful areas of the Agua Caliente Reservation. We will hike to the spectacular 60-foot waterfall as seen in Frank Capra's 1937 movie Lost Horizon. Along the way view rock art, an ancient water system, hear native stories and legends. About 1 p.m., optional lunch buffet at the Emperor Buffet, Rancho Mirage. Sensible hiking shoes and trekking poles recommended.

### **VICTOR TRAIL**

**EASY/MODERATE: 4 miles; gain, 300 feet; duration of hike, 2 hours; area, Indian Canyons; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 2025, Warner Paige**

**Prev: Mark McCulley; Myrna Harris**

This trail begins at the Trading Post where we hike down the Palm Canyon trail along the stream amid the palms. We then cross the stream to turn onto the Victor Trail to ascend where we will have magnificent views of Palm Canyon and the mountains beyond. Passing up the Fern Canyon trail for this hike, we will follow the stream back to the Trading Post. **(A 2.5 mile, 220 ft gain, 2 hr version of this hike omits the Fern Canyon segment).** **REMEMBER THAT THE ENTRANCE FEE TO INDIAN CANYONS IS \$7.00 (Senior Rate)**

### **VICTOR/FERN CANYON LOOP**

**MODERATE: 5 miles; gain, 400 feet; area, Indian Canyons Palm Springs; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike: Dec 17, 2021, Heather Gehring**

**Prev: MonMornHk&BagelGang; John Beringer**

We will follow the Palm Canyon Trail from the Trading Post passing along the stream in Palm Canyon, then crossing the stream and traveling through portions of the world's largest fan palm oasis. We then meet and ascend the Victor Trail where we will have views of Palm Canyon below and the mountains above. We will then take the Fern Canyon trail where if we have enough moisture, we'll see giant ferns. From there, we'll have an easy walk back through the oasis to our cars in the Trading Post parking lot. **Entrance fee to Indian Canyons-\$7.00 (senior rate)**

# **SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS**

## **BLACK MOUNTAIN**

**ADVANCED: 7.5 miles; gain: 2,700 feet; area, San Jacinto mountains; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 21, 2018, Ray Cheeney**

Black Mountain tops off at 7,772 Feet. This hike starts on the Northwest side of San Jacinto Mountain and offers fantastic views of the surrounding mountains and chaparral. We will hike up the trail through bands of pine and oak forest as well as chaparral. Near the summit we will encounter and enjoy a boulder strewn ridge and cap off our hike at a Fire watch tower. Our return will be on the same trail. RSVP REQUIRED; PLEASE CALL LEADER IN ADVANCE OF THE HIKE

## **CEDAR SPRINGS**

**ADVANCED: 6.5 miles; gain, 1,700 feet; area, Desert Divide; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: November 7, 2018, Ray Cheeney**

Our trailhead is located off of Morris Ranch Road where we will start up the Cedar Springs Trail. We will go through a portion of a private working ranch which has an abundance of Ribbonwood, Manzanita, scrub oak and yucca chaparral. Our climb will take us through many switchbacks up to the PCT at which we cross and will continue another 1 mile to Cedar Springs. Views will be of the Santa Rosa Mountain to the Southeast and San Jacinto Mountains to the Northwest. Bring water, lunch or snacks because of the duration of the hike. RSVP REQUIRED; PLEASE CALL LEADER IN ADVANCE.

## **DEVIL'S SLIDE TRAIL**

**ADVANCED: 5 miles; gain, 1700 feet; area, Idyllwild; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 1 Hour 20 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 17, 2019, Heather Gehring**

This trail ascends from Humber Park to Saddle Junction with many switchbacks and far reaching views. The hike starts around 6300 feet, so we will keep an easy pace to acclimate to the altitude. This hike is rated advanced due to the large elevation gain. Optional lunch afterwards at LA CASITA Mexican Restaurant in Idyllwild. PLEASE BRING GOLDEN AGE PASS IF YOU HAVE ONE for parking at Humber Park.

## **DEVIL'S SLIDE TO TAHQUITZ CREEK**

**ADVANCED: 8 miles; gain; 1700 feet; area, Idyllwild; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour 15 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: October 16, 2016, Heather Gehring**

The trail ascends 2.5 miles from Humber park to Saddle Junction, where we then continue towards Laws Junction through Tahquitz Valley. The trail is blocked off 1.5 miles from Saddle Junction due to 2013 fire damage, so that will be our snack and turn around spot. Expect lots of switch backs and far reaching views. PLEASE BRING GOLDEN AGE PASS IF YOU HAVE ONE for parking at Humber Park.

## **ERNIE MAXWELL TRAIL**

**MODERATE: 5.5 miles; gain, 600 feet; area, Idyllwild; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way; 1 hour, 20 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike, Oct 20, 2021, Heather Gehrung**

**Prev: Heather Gehrung**

Come enjoy a cool mountain hike through a peaceful pine forest. We start at around 6000 feet elevation and descend 600 feet through a peaceful pine forest with a gradual uphill return to the trailhead. We will set an easy pace to adjust to the altitude, especially on the uphill return.  
PLEASE BRING GOLDEN AGE PASS, PLENTY OF WATER, AND A SNACK

### **ERNIE MAXWELL TRAIL (From South End)**

**MODERATE: 5.2 miles; gain, 600 feet; area, Idyllwild; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour 20 mins**

**Date & leaders of most recent hikes: October 4, 2017, Nina & Lee Thomas; Prev: John Beringer, Marsha Hansen/Iona Scapple**

For a perfect way to begin the news season, join us this leisurely hike in Idyllwild! Experience the cooler spring temperatures, wonderful pine scents and a forest of Jeffrey, Ponderosa and Coulter pines on this gentle scenic trail. We will park and begin on the SOUTH end of Idyllwild. The trail ascends very gently to Humber Park where we will rest and then make the easy descent back to our cars. We will be hiking at an elevation of 6,000 feet. Bring water! Poles optional, Camera's a must! Plan on staying for lunch in Idyllwild!

### **LION PEAK, PINE MOUNTAIN #2, PYRAMID PEAK**

**ADVANCED: 10 miles; gain: 2400 feet; area, Idyllwild; duration of hike, 5-6 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike, November 19, 2014, Ray Cheeney**

Our peak-bagging hike will begin off of Morris Ranch Road and on the Cedar Springs Trail. We will have a rather strenuous climb from the Trail Head to a saddle at which we will intersect with the Pacific Crest Trail on the Desert Divide. Taking the PCT South we will first climb Pyramid Peak (7,035') then proceed south to Lion Peak (6,868'). On our return we will climb Pine Mountain #2 (7,054').

### **MOUNT SAN JACINTO TRAM TOUR**

**EASY/MODERATE: 1.5 miles; gain: 200 feet; area, Palm Springs, duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike; April 15, 2015, Bill Pivar & Shirley Hastie**

The largest rotating tram in the world, the Palm Springs Tram is the only way we can reach the 57 miles of hiking trails in San Jacinto State park. Just North of Palm Springs, we drive up Tramway Road at 300 feet to 2,643 feet at the Base Station, pay our fee and enjoy a 12 minute 8,516 foot Tram Car view ascending 2 ½ miles to pristine wilderness! Our hike will cover Grubb's View and The Desert View Trail. After some exhilarating views and cool air, we will gather for a cafeteria lunch inside the Upper Tram Building. May be 30 degrees cooler than the desert. Appropriate clothing, hiking shoes and water. Trekking sticks optional. Senior Tram Fee \$21.95.

### **RED TAHQUTZ PEAK**

**ADVANCED: 11 miles; gain, 2000 feet; area, Idylwild; duration of hie, 6 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date&leader or most recent hike; April 4, 2018, Ray Cheeney; Prev: John Beringer**

The hike will begin by ascending the Devil's Slide Trail, then through Tahquitz Valley where we join the Pacific Crest Trail with magnificent views to the North. We'll then follow a side trail up to the overlook on Red Tahquitz, which is a Nifty Fifty peak. Return by the same route. Bring

lunch because of the duration of the hike. PLEASE BRING GOLDEN AGE PASS IF YOU HAVE ONE for parking at Humber Park. Bring plenty of water, lunch or snacks because of the duration of the hike.

### **RAMONA TRAIL TO TOOLBOX SPRING**

**ADVANCED: 8.5 miles; gain: 1,500 feet; area, San Jacinto Mountains; duration of hike, 5-6 hours; drive time one way, 40 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: November 2022, Pat Fonstad**

**Prev: Pat Fonstad, Ray Cheeney, Ken Linville**

Our hike will start at elevation 4,500' on the Ramona Trail off of highway 74 through growths of manzanita, ribbonwood, and sage ascending at a moderate grade of 400' per mile to Tool Box Springs. The views will be of the San Jacinto Mountains to the North and Garner Valley in between. The descent will be via the same route. The hike is in the trees rather than the desert and is filled with the scent of pine and also has giant pinecones to be found. Although there is 1500 feet of elevation gain it is a relatively easy grade and the footing is excellent. It is one of the easier advanced hikes. Don't let the elevation gain put you off! It is steady uphill but Herman's Peak and the Art Smith are steeper.

### **ROUND VALLEY/TAMARACK VALLEY LOOP**

**ADVANCED: 6.5 miles; gain: 825 feet; area, San Jacinto Mountains; duration of hike, 5 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: October 26, 2021, Bendel/Biewer/Biewer/Fallell**

THIS HIKE IS CONSIDERED ADVANCED DUE TO THE HIGH ELEVATION. Our hike starts with a 10 minute 2.5 mile ride up the Palm Springs Tramway to an elevation of 8500 ft. The first section of trail winds 2.5 miles up through pine thickets. We will pass by beautiful Round Valley Meadow on our way to a secluded picturesque spot in the San Jacinto Wilderness, where we will stop for lunch. Afterwards, we will complete the Round Valley Loop on High Trail, with great views of Mt. San Jacinto and neighboring peaks, and then descend through meadows, pine trees, and rocky sections on Willow Creek Trail. We will take frequent breaks on this hike to allow for acclimation to the high altitude. Temperature will be ~30 degrees cooler than in the valley. Dress in layers. THIS IS NOT A HIKE FOR BEGINNERS or anyone with respiratory issues. Bring lunch, water (1.5+ Liters), camera, binoculars, cash for ticket. Hiking poles are highly recommended.

Tram ticket is \$26.95 for Seniors 65+, CASH ONLY. Maximum Number of Hikers: 20.

TRAM RESERVATIONS REQUIRED – RSVP REQUIRED

### **SNOW CREEK**

**EASY/MODERATE: 4 miles; gain, 500 feet; area, San Jacinto Mountains; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: February 14, 2020, Heather Gehring/Phillip Ferranti**

Enjoy spectacular valley and mountain views as you walk the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) with guest hike leader, Philip Ferranti. This hike starts at the foot of San Jacinto in the village of Snow Creek and gently ascends two miles into the lower reaches of the mountain. Return same path. Philip is a recognized local expert on hiking in our area and has written a very useful book called "140 Great Hikes in and near Palm Springs." Hiking Poles are always a good idea along with an extra layer of clothing. Philip says this area reminds him of the Eastern Sierra and cameras are a must! Don't forget your snacks and plenty of water.

## **SPITLER PEAK (VIA FOBES TRAIL)**

**ADVANCED: 7 miles; gain, 2300 feet; area, Garner Valley/Desert Divide; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 1/4 hours**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: March 21, 2018, Ray Cheeney; Prev, John Beringer**

From the Fobes Ranch Road trail head, we will ascend the trail to Fobes Saddle, and then turn North along the Pacific Crest Trail to the Spitler Trail junction. From there we will ascend a use trail to Spitler Peak (a Nifty Fifty Peak). Return along the same route. Bring lunch or snacks because of the duration of the hike.

## **SUICIDE ROCK**

**ADVANCED: 8 miles; gain, 1700 feet; area: Idyllwild; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour 15 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: April 28, 2019, Heather Gehring; Prev: Monday Morn**

**Hike&Bagel Gang; John Beringer; Iona Scapple & Marsha Hansen**

Come get out of the desert heat! Suicide Rock is an outcropping of white granite jutting out from the south slope of Marion Ridge, high above Strawberry Valley. It offers fantastic views of the valley floor, Lily Rock and Tahquitz Peak. Follow a well-maintained, gradual uphill trail though pine trees for great valley views at the top of Suicide Rock. Bring a substantial snack to eat at the summit, plus plenty of water. Also an extra layer of clothing since the summit is 7000 feet.

## **TAHQUITZ PEAK, SOUTH RIDGE TRAIL**

**ADVANCED: 7 miles; gain, 2300 feet; area, Idyllwild; duration of hike, 5 + hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 22, 2017, Ray Cheeney**

We will round trip hike the South Ridge Trail to the top of Tahquitz Peak with its fire lookout at 8,828 feet. The peak affords beautiful panoramic views of San Jacinto to the north, Suicide Rock and the San Bernadino Mountains to the northwest, Idyllwild the west and the Garner Valley, Desert Divide and Toro Peak to the south. CALL HIKE LEADER IN ADVANCE.

## **TAHQUITZ PEAK VIA DEVIL'S SLIDE OR SOUTH RIDGE TRAILS**

**ADVANCED: 8 miles; gain: 2400 feet; area: Idyllwild; duration of hike, 5+ hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leaders of most recent hikes; November 12, 2014, Ray Cheeney & Ken Linville**

This is a key exchange hike with one group ascending the Devil's Slide Trail to the Lookout at 8,828' and descending the South Ridge Trail. The other group will ascend the South Ridge Trail to the Lookout at 8,828' and descend the Devil's Slide Trail. Tahquitz Peak affords beautiful panoramicviews of the entire surrounding area. Due to the duration of the hike, bring snacks and/or lunch.

## **SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS**

### **CACTUS SPRINGS**

**ADVANCED: 9 miles; gain, 1200 feet; area, Santa Rosa Mountains; duration of dike, 5 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 20, 2019, Ray Cheeney**

This hike is into the Santa Rosa Mountain Wilderness wherein we will see thickets of vegetation, cacti and pinion pine. We will see the remnants of an abandoned dolomite mine, and an historic horsethief corral made of dried Manzanita. Once we cross Horse Thief Creek we will continue to Cactus Springs with delightful views of the chaparral covered slopes of the Horsethief Creek watershed. Martinez Mountain is directly ahead as we approach Cactus Springs. This hike will start at approx. 4,000 ft elevation. We will return by the same route.

## **CAHUILLA TEWANET**

**EASY:** about 0.5 miles; gain, 0 feet; area, Santa Rosa Mountains; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way 25 minutes

**Date & leader of most recent hike:** December 20, 2018, Kerry Berman

This is a sacred Native American Cahuilla destination in the Santa Rosa Mountains about 10 miles South of Big Horn and 4000' above sea level. We will talk about the Cahuilla history, flora, fauna, and geology of the area. During late spring /early summer, the Cahuilla would leave the desert floor to collect food and avoid the heat in the chaparral area of the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains. Bring sweater, camera, water, closed toed shoes. No RSVP necessary.

## **HAYSTACK MOUNTAIN**

**ADVANCED:** 13 miles; gain, 1,600 feet /loss, 4,100 feet; area, Santa Rosa Mountains; duration of hike, 7 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes

**Date & leaders of most recent hike:** December 6, 2012, Ken Linville & Burt Falk

We will be dropped off by our driver at the north end of Palm Canyon Dr. in the Pinyon Flats area, being 1 mile west of Asbestos Mountain. We will then trek NE 2.7 miles on a jeep road to its terminus at Dunn Rd. where we will hike north along said Rd., another 2.5 miles to the nearest position west of Haystack Mountain Peak. From there we will cross country for about 0.4 miles to bag said Peak, return to Dunn Rd. and continue down to the junction with Cathedral City Canyon Trail. The last 1.8 miles will be down said Canyon Trail where our driver will pick us up in Cathedral City Cove on Foothill Rd.

## **HORSETHIEF CREEK**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED:** 5 miles; gain: 900 feet; area, Pinyon Pines, Santa Rosa Mtns.; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 40 min

**Date&leader of most recent hike:** December, 2022, Pat Fonstad

**Prev:** Don Bailey, Mike Gittleman, MonMornHk&BagelGang, John Beringer, Sam Kaplan

The trailhead is located on HWY 74, about 16 miles from HWY 111, just west of the Sugarloaf Cafe. We follow the Cactus Springs Trail, an old Cahuilla pathway that initially passes the remains of an abandoned dolomite mine, and then undulates up and down to Horsethief Creek. Old West lore says this was a place where rustlers hid out and rebranded horses they stole in the San Diego region. The remnants of an old manzanita corral still exist. The turnaround point is at a picturesque cottonwood and sycamore grove. Return is by the same trail. Most of the gain is on the way back. We will have an easy rock-to-rock stream crossing, so hiking poles may be useful. Bring lunch or snacks and plenty of water. A good, but in places rough and in spots possibly slippery trail, where good boots and poles are helpful.

## **MARTINEZ MOUNTAIN**

**ADVANCED:** 16 miles; gain, 4300 feet; area, Santa Rosa Wilderness; duration of hike, 8-9 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes

**Date & leader of most recent hike:** March 18, 2015, Ray Cheeney

Our hike will begin at the Cactus Springs Trailhead and take us through Horse Thief Creek, Cactus Springs then on to the summit of Martinez Mountain. Once we leave the Cactus Springs Trail we will encounter some off trail bushwhacking and rock scrambling to reach the summit at 6,560 feet. We should enjoy a 360 Degree view of the Coachella Valley from the summit. PLEASE CALL LEADER IN ADVANCE

### **SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS WALKABOUT**

**EASY: 2.5 - 4 miles; gain, 200 feet; area, Santa Rosa Mountains; duration of hike, 2-3 hours; drive time one way, 50 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: November 2022, Phillip Ferranti & Myrna Harris**

**Prev: Philip Ferranti & Heather Gehring**

Philip Ferranti is the founder of Coachella Valley Hiking Club and author of "140 Great Hikes in and Near Palm Springs". Philip will lead club members on an easy 2.5 - 4 mile hike through the Santa Rosa Mountains off Highway 74. Lots of yucca and cactus, blooming in the spring. You'll also enjoy views of the Dolomite Mines and other scenic vistas. A great hike to take pictures, leisurely stroll and enjoy the morning. Easy, relaxed pace. SUNSCREEN, HATS AND PLENTY OF WATER ARE A MUST. AN EXTRA LAYER IS A GOOD IDEA SINCE THE HIKE BEGINS AT ~4000 ELEVATION.

### **SAWMILL TRAIL**

**ADVANCED: 11.5 miles; gain, 2500 feet; area, Santa Rosa Mtns Natl Monument; duration of hike, 6 hours, drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 19, Brian Johnson**

**Prev: Ray Cheeney**

This hike encompasses the use of the Sawmill Trail with our destination at a kiln fabricated from stones and bricks which was used for making charcoal as fuel for an abandoned Sawmill. The Sawmill Trail is famous for its 5 miles of scenic switchbacks ascending into the pine forests. We will have views to the west to the San Jacinto Mountains, northeast down Deep Canyon that borders Hwy. 74 and east toward Martinez Mountain. Our return will be on the same trail.

### **SAWMILL TRAIL/SANTA ROSA MOUNTAIN**

**ADVANCED: 11 miles, gain, 4,200 feet; area, Santa Rosa Mtns; duration of hike, 4.5 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 16, 2014, Ray Cheeney & Burt Falk**

This Hike will be a Key Exchange with Burt Falk leading the downhill portion and Ray Cheeney doing the uphill section. This hike encompasses the use of the Sawmill Trail with its start or end at the Cactus Springs Trail Head. Sawmill Trail is famous for its 5.4 miles of unforgiving switchbacks but beauty in its scenery and vistas. Once arriving at roads end of Santa Rosa Mountain Road or the Sawmill Trail we will do a quick 500' gain assault to the summit of Santa Rosa Mountain which reaches 8,070'.

### **WAGON WHEEL CATTLE TRAIL**

**EASY: a3.5 miles; gain, flat and downhill; area, Garner Valley; duration of hike, 2 - 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 40 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 16, 2022, Heather Gehring/Phil Ferranti**

Enjoy nice vistas of Garner Valley on a DOWNHILL hike with guest hike leader, Philip Ferranti. We will learn about the history of Garner Valley area and, hopefully, see some spring flowers. Philip is a recognized local expert on hiking in our area and has written a useful book called

“140 Great Hikes In and Near Palm Springs.” This will be a shuttle hike with some cars at the beginning and some cars at the end of the hike. Plenty of Water & Hiking Poles are ALWAYS a good idea.

## **JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, MOJAVE DESERT**

### **BARKER DAM & WALL STREET MILL**

**EASY: 4 miles; gain, 100 feet; area, Joshua Tree Nat’l Park; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way: 1 hr 10 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 6, 2020, Laura Marshall; Prev: Bill Pivar**

Two short hikes from same Joshua Tree National Park parking lot. First hike around a lake in the desert plus viewing Indian petroglyphs. Then take a historic trail (site of the last Western gun fight) to the Wall Street Mill where gold was recovered from ore supplied by local mines. You will view Indian millstones and a few old cars peeking up from the sand. Hiking shoes and trekking sticks recommended. Bring a picnic for lunch afterward. BRING WATER AND YOUR GOLDEN AGE PASSPORT IF YOU HAVE ONE – NEED ONE PER VEHICLE

### **BOY SCOUT TRAIL**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 8 miles; gain, 200'/loss 1,345'; area, Joshua Tree N.P.;duration of hike, 4-5 hours; drive time one way, 1-1/2 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 20, 2015, Ron Richardson**

We cross several types of desert landscape on this mostly downhill trail. The first section is an open trail through high desert Joshua Tree forest mixed with yucca and cholla next to the picturesque Wonderland of Rocks. Next the trail drops into a narrow creek bed leading to a rocky canyon between steep mountains. Here we have experienced frequent sightings of bighorn sheep. The final portion of the trail becomes a sandy wash followed by open desert as we return to our vehicles at Indian Cove. Car shuttle required. Bring trail snacks, water, Golden Age pass (if available)

### **BURRO TRAIL**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6.5 miles; gain, 300 feet; area, Joshua Tree NP; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way 1.25 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 21, 2017, Ron Richardson**

The Burro Trail meanders through varied desert scenery in the north facing boulder escarpments of Joshua Tree National Park overlooking the Morongo Basin. This circular hike first passes through a rocky and undulating Joshua Tree landscape. Then we make our way down a steep sided canyon, and after a little bit of cross country, we walk back up the next rocky ridge. Finally is a trek across open desert to return to the start. Easy going boulder hopping skills are required to pass through the canyons on this scenic hike designed by the talented Roger. Bring trail snacks, water, Golden Age Pass (if available).

### **CAREY'S CASTLE & MINE**

**ADVANCED: 8 miles; gain, 1400 feet; area, Joshua Tree N.P.; duration of hike, 5 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 4, 2022, Pat Fonstad**

**Prev: Ray Cheeney, Duane**

This is a out-and-back hike to Carey’s Castle, or more aptly said, an abandoned, mysterious hidden shelter of a desert squatter. It is built under a boulder and has in it some of the

furnishings and memorabilia of the 1940's at which time it is estimated that he built his "Castle". Our hike will bring us through a series of canyons and dry waterfalls with some "minimal" boulder hopping and scrambling. In some places, it is up to each individual to look at the boulders and navigate their own path through them based on the size of their legs and their strength. One review called it more of an adventure than a hike! It has been intermittently closed so the trail is heavy with Cat's Claw. It would be appreciated if you would bring pruning shears with you to help clear the path. The hike is a lot of work, but the canyons are magical and worth the effort! Hiking poles recommended as is LOTS of water. Gloves are also helpful with the Cat's Claw.

### **COTTONWOOD SPRINGS BAJADA NATURE TRAIL WALK**

**EASY: 1/4 mile; gain, nil; area, Joshua Tree National Park, East Entrance; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 40 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: February 7, 2019, Kerry Berman**

South-facing Bajada should make for an early spring flower bloom. Very nice easy walking trail, approximately 1/4 mile in length. Great place to talk about flowers, geology and the endangered desert tortoise. A nice, relaxing, interpretive walk with gorgeous views. It is approximately 3 miles to Cottonwood Springs Visitor Center which might be of interest. No fee at this destination. NO RSVP REQUIRED.

### **DESERT QUEEN/SPLIT ROCK LOOP**

**ADVANCED: 7.3 miles; gain, 570 feet; area, Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike, 4-5 hours; drive time one way, 1.25 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 20, 2017, Ron Richardson**

This challenging adventure hike combines the attractions of the Desert Queen region. First are the sweeping views from Lucky Boy Visa. Next comes Split Rock Loop and its maze of boulder piles and rock formations. Eagle Cliff Mine has an interesting 100 year old undisturbed miner's cave/cabin. Desert Queen Wash is a fine example of rugged desert scenery. The easy trails of these destinations are connected by a cross country desert walk and primitive uphill and downhill 'use' trails with rocky footing through rugged terrain. These connections are the enjoyable challenge of this hike, designed and assisted by the talented Roger. Bring trail snacks, water, Golden Age Pass (if available)

### **HALL OF HORRORS, SKULL ROCK**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3 miles; gain, 200 feet; area, Joshua Tree Nat'l Park; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour 20 min**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: Oct. 29, 2015, Oct. 30, 2014, Bill Pivar & Wes McNeil**  
Mother Nature spent millions of years creating these parallel Hall of Horrors rock formations! A few short steep paths are sprinkled along the trail. We then continue on to Skull Rock for a short hike. Have your camera ready as these "ghostly" shaped natural wonders play "tricks" with your imagination! Be ready to have your photo taken at the "hauntingly" beautiful Skull Rock. Lunch at the famous Yucca Valley Sizzler. CAMERA, JACKET, HIKING BOOTS, HIKING POLES RECOMMENDED.

### **HIDDEN VALLEY - INSIDE OUT; SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE**

**MODERATE: 4.5 miles; gain, 50 feet; area, Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike, 2.5 hours, drive time one way, 1.5 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 24, 2019, Carol Weston**

Photo hikers are welcome to "shoot" the one Mile loop trail (1hour 20 minutes). There are

many interesting rock formations and plants. We'll meet for a 25 minute lunch break at the trail head. Next I'll provide a guided hike of the less visited outer perimeter. There are many really interesting rock formations and a free standing arch. The later afternoon/evening light will cast an interesting color on the rock walls that surround Hidden Valley. Photo Hikers need to have appropriate gear, water, food, and a CAMERA. Don't forget your Golden Age Pass (if applicable)

### **KEYS RANCH TOUR, HIDDEN VALLEY HIKE**

**EASY: 2 miles; gain, 50 feet; area: Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour 30 mins; Tour space is limited to 23.**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: March 22, 2018, Bill Pivar; Prev: Pivar/McNeil, PivarHastie**

We begin with a 90 minute Ranger guided Keys Ranch tour of the only historic home, buildings and implements in this National Park. The ranch is a symbol of the resourcefulness of early settlers. After a break to "refresh", we hike along a well-traveled path meandering through a spectacular scenic valley of beautiful rock formation where notorious rustlers once corralled cattle. Lunch at the Sizzler in Joshua Tree. TOUR FEE: \$5.00 – Bring your Golden Age Pass. We will collect \$5 tour fee as you sign up at Lakeview Parking Lot. California State Parks require that all 23 tour spots/fees be paid in advance, therefore any cancellations must be one week prior to the hiking dates. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST – BOOK NOW FOR YOU & YOUR GUESTS!

### **LITTLE BERDOO PEAK, BERNARD PEAK**

**ADVANCED: 6 miles; gain, 2100 feet; area, Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 2 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 22, 2017, Ray Cheeney**

Take the opportunity to double your Peak Bagging experience by doing these two exploratory hikes in one outing. We will be doing a substantial portion of this hike off trail and "Bushwhacking" but will have outstanding views from each peak. These Peaks are located in Central Joshua Tree. Due to the nature of this hike PLEASE CALL LEADER IN ADVANCE.

### **LOST HORSE LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 8 miles; gain, 600 feet; area, Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike, 4 – 5 hours; drive time one way, 1 ¼ hours**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: April 2023, Biewer/Biewer/Farrell/Bendel**

**Prev: Ross Vanderputten, Ron Richardson**

The Lost Horse Mine is one of the largest and best preserved mines in any National Park Service unit. It operated between 1893 and 1936, producing over 9,000 ounces of gold. It was one of the most profitable mines within the park boundaries. When the story of the mine is told, it sounds like a western campfire tale: gun slinging cowboys, cattle rustlers, horse thieves, the lure of gold, and a sticky-fingered miner. The trailhead is located off Keys View Road on an access road that is not paved, but most vehicles should be able to navigate. This loop hike covers a variety of environments in Joshua Tree National Park. The first third is a rocky mountain trail ascending to Lost Horse Mine. Soon after this highest point on the trail, enjoy panoramic views high above Pleasant Valley and Geology Tour Road. The middle section of the hike is across undulating desert hills covered by Joshua trees, yucca, and juniper. The final third is a good trail through an open sandy wash back to the start. Bring snacks, water, Golden Age pass (if available)

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6.2 miles; gain, 833 feet; duration of hike, 3 hours**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: March 2025, Kevin Rivette**

**Prev: Beverley Hackett**

This version is a 6.2-mile loop that combines natural beauty and historical interest. Visitors can enjoy the scenic views of Lost Horse Valley and visit a historic mining site. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 3 hours to complete. This trail is a more secluded and very peaceful option for visiting the historic Lost Horse Mine. There is a nice variety of scenery throughout the hike with expansive views to the east just after passing the mine. This trail has limited shade and unreliable cell service. NOTE: PLEASE ASSESS YOUR COMFORT LEVELS CAREFULLY. GLOVES, POLES, AND PLENTY OF WATER RECOMMENDED. BRING CAMERAS!

## **LOST PALMS OASIS**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 7 to 8 miles; gain, 800 feet; duration of hike, 5 hours**

**Area: Joshua Tree National Park; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: April 2025, Beverly Hackett & Warner Paige**

**Prev: Bendel/Biewer/Farrell/Biewer, Bailey, Gehring, Richardson, Hansen/Scapple**

Lost Palms Oasis is the largest group of California Fan Palms in the Joshua Tree Park. The hike begins at the pretty oasis of Cottonwood Springs. From here, the trail passes through heaps of huge boulders in Sonoran desert scenery of desert willows, barrel cactus, and ocotillo. The undulating trail traverses a series of sandy washes and higher ridges with views of the vast hills of the eastern section of the park, ending at a rocky plateau overlooking the spectacular California fan palm oasis, and, in a different direction, the Salton Sea Basin. Relax at the top or take the optional steep 0.2 mile hike down to the palms and water below. Abundant wild flowers just off of I-10, on our way into the Park in season. Bring trail snacks and/or lunch, water, hiking poles, Golden Age Pass (if available)

## **LUCKY BOY VISTA & DESERT QUEEN MINE**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3.5 miles; gain, 300 feet; area, Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 1.5 hours**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: March 18, 2014, Bill Pivar & Shirley Hastie**

We're going for the gold! Beginning with the Lucky Boy Vista trail along an old wagon route, we pass numerous mine shafts arriving at an overlook with a spectacular miniature-grand-canyon view. We then trek down a canyon slope to explore the largest and most successful gold mine in the high desert from 1891 to 1961—the Desert Queen Mine. Lunch after at the Joshua Tree Sizzler.

## **MASTADON PEAK**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3.6 miles; gain, 440 feet; area, Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: December 2024, Chris Vanderputten**

**Prev: Chris Vanderputten, Myrna Harris, MonMornHk&BagelGang**

The trail leading up Mastodon Peak (3371 ft) in Joshua Tree National Park is relatively easy, and the location in the Cottonwood area is at the lowest elevation in the Park. No Joshua Trees here. But this hike has everything: elevation gain via steps, rock formations, a view of the Salton Sea, a mine, walking through wash, Indian culture, and plant variety. The first 3/4 mile is a gentle incline, some on steps, where we reach the peak itself. Once on the top, you'll be rewarded with sweeping views of the surrounding desert, the Coachella Valley and the Salton Sea. Here we will stop for snacks and to admire the views. On our easy decline we

pass the remains of one of the many mines in JTNP. This is a loop hike and, in a good year is a good wildflower show. Bring trail snacks, Plenty of Water, and a Golden Age Pass (if available). Hiking Poles are ALWAYS a good idea.

### **MAZE (THE)**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 7 miles; gain, 1,000 feet; duration of hike, 4 to 5 hours**

**Area, Joshua Tree Nation Park; drive time one way, 1 hour 25 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: March 2025, Ross Vanderputten**

**Prev: Pat Fonstad, Ross Vanderputten, Irene Rosen, Ron Richardson**

This hilly up and down trail through a boulder strewn landscape starts at an elevation of 4000 feet, and offers a variety of scenic attractions. We start on the North View trail that goes through a series of ridges and canyons with panoramic vistas of the Morongo Basin to the north and Park highlands to the interior. Then we hike to The Maze Loop where the trail winds through narrow passages among large boulder piles and impressive rock formations. Following is Window Rock, a rare see-through arch shaped like a Thunderbird high in a prominent peak. The final stretch is level trail as it continues across a wash in front of the Window Rock, reconnects to the Maze Loop and passes through high desert covered by Joshua trees and back to our starting point. Note: The trail head is 1.6 miles in from the West Entrance pay booth of JTNP. It is OK to park along either side of road if the 4-car dirt lot is full. Bring plenty of water, lunch, snacks, wind breaker, hiking poles, and Golden Age Pass (if available).

### **PANORAMA LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED to ADVANCED: 6.3 miles; gain,1200 feet; area, Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 to 1.5 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 2025, Kevin Rivette. Prev: Ron Richardson**

The Panorama Loop in the northwestern-most section of the Park offers a variety of interesting flora, terrain, and spectacular views. The hike takes place out of Black Rock at 4000' elevation, where higher altitudes of the Park prevail, with pinon, juniper, and oak woodlands. You'll hike up a sandy wash before climbing up a ridge and exploring the Little San Bernardino Mountains. Expect a good cardio hike for the first 3.2 miles, then it's all downhill! Lower elevations and canyons feature a high Mojave Desert landscape dominated by Joshua Trees and abundant cactus. The highest parts of the trail give a 360\* view of the surrounding areas: Coachella Valley, Mt San Jacinto, the San Gorgonio Mountains, thus the name Panorama. Bring trail snacks, water, Golden Age pass (if available)

### **PEAK 5162**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 5 miles; gain: 662 feet Area: Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike: 3-4 hours; drive time one way: 1 hour 15 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: April 13, 2018, Ron Richardson**

Attention: Peak Boppers! Join us on an off-trail adventure hike in Joshua Tree. Peak 5162' is the closest high point to the Wonderland of Rocks, and there is a terrific view from the top of the jumble of rocks below and the Park in all directions. The distance and altitude gain on this hike are moderate, but there is no established trail. We'll climb up a rocky ridge and down a boulder canyon. This adventurous cross-country hike involves some scrambling and will require good footing and balance. The hike will be assisted by the talented Roger. Bring trail snacks, water, Golden Age pass (if available)

## **PINE CITY & DESERT QUEEN MINE**

**EASY: 3 miles; gain, 100 Feet; area, Joshua Tree Park; duration of hike, 2.5 Hours; drive time one way, 1 Hour 15 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 19, 2018, Bill Pivar; Prev: Bill Pivar & Shirley Hastie**

This is an easy hike with clusters of monzonite boulders and pinion pines to the Pine City gold miners village and to view a colorful miniature "Grand Canyon". At 4,563 feet above sea level, the area is dotted with beautiful wild flowers, desert greenery and boulders. Cabins and mine shafts once nestled among the riverways, rock formations and pine trees. Great camera-ready scenic views of ridges overlooking deep ravines. An added short trek to a lookout over a panoramic view of the Desert Queen Mine, where dreams of gold were made and dashed. Good beginners' Joshua Tree hike. Hiking shoes and trekking poles recommended. BRING YOUR GOLDEN AGE NATIONAL PARK PASS

## **PUSHAWALLA PASS/PLATEAU**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 7.6 miles; gain to pass 1000 ft./gain to plateau 1000 ft; area, Joshua Tree Nat'l Park; duration of hike, 4-5 hrs; drive time one way, 1.5 hrs**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: October 10, 2012, Ron Richardson**

Hike in a remote and seldom visited part of the Park. Departing from Geology Tour Road, a moderate trail (2.8 miles & 1000 ft.) rises to Pushawalla Pass up a narrowing sandy wash and canyon filled with pinon, juniper, and Joshua trees. Several mining ruins are scattered along the trail. Stop at the Pass, or continue one more mile on a steeper trail to the edge of the Pushawalla Plateau at 5200' for a great view of the Salton Sea, Coachella Valley, and distant mountains.

## **QUEEN MOUNTAIN SCRAMBLE**

**ADVANCED: 4 miles; gain: 1200 feet Area: Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike: 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 1/4 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 5, 2016, Ron Richardson**

Queen Mountain at 5687' is one of the highest peaks in Joshua Tree National Park with terrific 360° views of the surrounding area at the summit. This hike utilizes informal trails and cross country travel, rocky ridges and boulder strewn canyons, on a loop to the top and back. Good balance on uneven terrain, rock scrambling and boulder hopping skills are a must on this challenging but manageable adventure hike designed and assisted by the talented Roger. BRING TRAIL SNACKS, WATER, GOLDEN AGE PASS (IF AVAILABLE)

## **RYAN MOUNTAIN TRAIL**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 4 miles; gain, 700 feet; area, Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 1.3 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 17, 2020, Myrna Harris; Prev: Burt Falk**

At 5,461 feet elevation, one of the best panoramic views anywhere in Joshua Tree National Park can be had from the top of Ryan Mountain. In the distance, the tall summits of San Jacinto and San Gorgonio capped with snow in the winter, rise above the scenic features of Joshua Tree. The trail is well maintained and is a steady 700 foot gain. We will hike it slowly and stop for water breaks, thus making it on the easy side. We will pause at the top to identify all the scenic features and to rest, relax and have a snack. Keep checking the weather so that you make a good decision on how many layers of clothing to wear/carry. Bring plenty of water, a snack, camera AND your Golden Age Pass, if you have one.

## **SPLIT ROCK BOULDER PANORAMA**

**EASY: 3-mile loop; gain, 350 feet; area, Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 1.5 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 3, 2014, Bill Pivar & Shirley Hastie**

This is the most spectacular hike we have ever done! Unlock your wildest imagination exploring the endless picturesque rock formations. Up/down steps, split rocks/rock slopes and a trail that goes on forever. There will be many rest and photo stops but the terrain is not entirely easy. Hiking boots and trekking poles are mandatory! If you arrive at the sign-up w/o them, you will have to return home.

## **STUBBE SPRINGS LOOP**

**ADVANCED: 12 miles Elevation Gain: 630 feet Area: Joshua Tree National Park; duration of hike: 6 hours; drive time one way: 1 1/4 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 6, 2017, Ron Richardson**

Hike to a remote wilderness section of the Park. The trail is long but not particularly difficult. Traveling primarily through a high desert Joshua tree landscape, we will walk over varied terrain of ridges, valleys, canyons, and washes. Highlights include Stubbe Springs where Desert bighorn sheep skeletons lie scattered about showing where the unwary took their last drink before being ambushed by predatory lions; a dramatic overview of expansive Fan Canyon, 2000' directly below; and passage through landscapes of recent burn, previous burn, and no burn, illustrating how the Joshua tree has little defense against increasing fire occurrence in the Park. BRING TRAIL SNACKS, WATER, GOLDEN AGE PASS (IF AVAILABLE)

## **TWO PEAKS, RYAN MOUNTAIN, MASTODON PEAK**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: Ryan Mt, 3 miles; gain, 1070'; Mastodon Peak, 3 miles; gain, 440'; duration of hikes, 2 hours each; duration of drive, 2.5 hrs circular loop**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 2, 2017, Ron Richardson**

Join us on this scenic circular loop drive through Joshua Tree National Park. On the way we will climb two moderate peaks. Ryan Mt (5461') is climbed on a well maintained trail and offers one of the best panoramic views in the northern portion of the Park: Mts San Jacinto and San Gorgonio, Wonderland of Rocks, Pinto Basin, and more. Driving south, we travel from the higher Mojave Desert environment to the lower altitude Sonoran Desert at Cottonwood Springs. Mastodon Peak (3371') is an easier hike to the top where we will find sweeping views of the surrounding desert, the Coachella Valley and Salton Sea.

## **WEST SIDE LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 4.7 miles; gain: 1000 feet; area, Joshua Tree N.P.; duration of hike, 2.5-3.5 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 2025, Biewer/Biewer/Bendell/Farell**

**Prev: Robert Heckert**

The trailhead for this beautiful hike, which begins at the Black Rock Nature Center in Joshua Tree National Park at 4025 ft. elevation, is in the far northwest section of the park, away from the crowds that can be encountered in the central section. Another bonus is that there is NO park entrance fee here. We will hike this well-marked loop counterclockwise through the Mojave Desert, which will afford us stunning views of high-density Joshua trees, exceptionally large junipers covered with dusty blue "gin" berries, and pinyon pines. Midway into the hike,

we encounter two steep sections that will provide cardio conditioning. Our reward at the top of the first climb is a panoramic view of 5 mountain ranges anchored by Mt. San Gorgonio and Mt. San Jacinto. After a snack stop, the trail continues up and down hills covered with cholla, prickly pear and hedgehog cacti, scrub oak, and eye-catching Parry's nolina. Descents on some of these hills may be slippery. A welcome meander through a serene wash is the easiest part of the trail. If we're lucky, there may be wildflowers and Joshua trees blooming. **BRING PLENTY OF WATER.** Boots with good tread and hiking poles are recommended.

### **WILLOW HOLE**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 7 miles; gain: 120 feet; area, Joshua Tree N.P.; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour 15 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 11, 2016, Ron Richardson**

The Wonderland of Rocks in Joshua Tree is a confusing labyrinth of granite columns, dead-end valleys, rocky ridges, and isolated coves. But it is seldom visited as there are no developed trails here. The Willow Cove trail will lead us into this almost impenetrable feature. Beginning with an open high desert trail, we enter a narrowing wash winding through rocky pillars and piles. The wash widens at Willow Hole where large willows and rocky walls surround pools of water. We will spend some time here exploring before returning on the same trail. Optional lunch at Crossroads Café after the hike. Bring trail snacks, water, Golden Age Pass (if available)

### **WONDERLAND WANDER**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 5 miles; gain, 300 ft.; area Joshua Tree N.P.; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 1.25 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 8, 2017, Ron Richardson**

The Wonderland of Rocks is one of the outstanding attractions of Joshua Tree National Park. There are no trails here, so we'll make our own on this adventurous exploration through the boulder fields on this route designed by the talented Roger. Sights on the way include pictographs in a secret cave, towering Garrett's Arch, historic Wall Street Mill, and the millions of rocks and boulders of all shapes and sizes in the Wonderland. 75% of this hike is off trail and requires the ability to navigate rocky open desert terrain and some modest rock scrambling creating an advanced dimension to this hike. Bring trail snacks, water, Golden Age Pass (if available)

### **WILLIE BOY'S GRAVE**

**MODERATE: 5.4 miles; gain: 570 feet; area, high desert near Landers; duration of hike, 3 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour 15 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 18, 2013, Ken Linville**

Said to be the last great man hunt of the west, Willie Boy was chased by a posse in 1909 and his life ended on Ruby MT near where we will trek along a jeep road to his monument and grave site. At his site, before we return, I will pass out literature on the history of Willie Boy and where we can pay our respects. On the drive back we will stop for lunch at the Willie Boy's Saloon in Morongo Valley where there is other interesting info about our Willie Boy.

# **SAN GORGONIO PASS AND NEARBY**

## **BIG MORONGO CANYON PRESERVE**

**EASY: 2.25 miles; gain, 150 feet; duration of hike, 1.5 hours; area, Morongo Valley; drive time one way 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 2023, Karen Bieber**

**Prev: Karen Bieber, Laura Marshall**

If you are just starting to hike or just back to Sun City and need a beginner hike to get your desert legs back, the **WALKABOUT** version of this hike is for you. The hike begins in a lush riparian oasis at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, a spectacular landscape of cottonwoods, willows, cattails, and other riparian species. This spectacular hike roams through a valley, a canyon and a marsh –all in just a couple of miles of easy walking via boardwalk and hard packed trail. The trailhead is at 2,500 feet, so temperatures will be slightly cooler than the Sun City area. Plants, wildlife and over 30 varieties of birds now inhabit the protected areas of this preserve.

**EASY/MODERATE: 4 miles; gain: 300 feet; duration of hike, 2 1/2 Hours**

**Date & Leader of most recent hike: January 25, 2018, Bill Pivar**

Please have proper hiking shoes and trekking poles.

## **BIG MORONGO PRESERVE SIX PACK**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6.5 miles; gain, 800 ft.; duration of hike, 5 hrs; Area, Morongo Valley; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 2024, Bendel/Biewer/Biewer/Farrell**

**Prev: Bendel/Biewer/Biewer/Farrell**

Join us for a hike in this scenic high desert preserve that serves as a transitional zone between the Mojave and Sonoran deserts. We begin on the winding boardwalk of the Marsh Trail, a Birder's paradise, and travel through wetlands and wooded areas, then climb the West Canyon saddle ridge. Steep switchbacks lead us to the canyon floor, where we will follow a willow-lined stream bed. Blooming wildflowers, cacti, and wildlife provide photo opportunities. After exploring Morongo Canyon, we will have a lunch break on a large deck tucked along the Mesquite Trail, surrounded by the serene natural beauty of the wetlands. From there we climb the Yucca Ridge Trail for a spectacular bird's-eye view of the preserve, Morongo Valley, and the snow capped San Gorgonio and San Jacinto mountain peaks. Desert Willow, the final trail of our Six Pack, returns us to the parking area. Bring snacks & lunch, plenty of water, camera & binoculars. Hiking poles recommended.

## **CHAPARROSA PEAK**

**ADVANCED: 6.2 miles; gain, 1340 ft.; area, Pioneertown; duration of hike, 3.5 hrs.; drive time one way, 55 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 2025, Beverly Hackett**

Out and back trail to Chaparossa Peak in the Pioneertown Mountains Preserve. Start at the Visitor Center on Pipes Canyon Road. Stunning views, well-maintained path and beautiful scenery. Bring your poles and water for a moderately difficult hike. A fun trail that winds through hills to the peak with a great payoff at the peak with 360° views at 5541ft!

## **CHAPARROSA SPRING**

**MODERATE: 6 miles; gain, 900 ft.; area, Pioneertown; duration of hike, 3 hrs.; drive time one way, 55 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November, 2024, Beverly Hackett/Warner Paige**

**Prev: Hackett/Paige**

A well-maintained trail out of Pioneertown through stacked jumbled boulders, big vistas and diversity of plants, birds, and animals. A large Native American grinding stone sits among scrub oaks, close to our trail. This hike offers a lot of variety for an easy, half-day trip. From huge granite boulders and pleasing desert scenery to old ruins and pictographs. Stop at the Red Dog Saloon for snack after the hike.

## **DRY LAKE**

**ADVANCED: 13.0 miles; gain, 2300 ft.; area, San Gorgonio Wilderness; duration of hike, 6.5 hrs.; drive time one way, 1 hour 40 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 16, 2012, Ray Cheeney**

Dry Lake sits in a great amphitheater surrounded on three sides by the crest of Grinnell, Lake, San Gorgonio and Jepson Peaks. The lake is shallow and in seasons of light precipitation dries up, hence its name. The forest cover on the surrounding slopes is almost exclusively lodge pole pine, with low clumps of chinquapin. This mountain basin approaches true alpine conditions and bears a striking resemblance to the High Sierra. This hike is subject to snow conditions.

## **MANZANITA SPRINGS**

**ADVANCED: 8 miles; gain: 2400 feet; area, San Gorgonio Wilderness; duration of hike, 8-9 hours; drive time one way, 75minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: October 26, 2017, Ray Cheeney**

Our hike will begin at Angelus Oaks on the Mt. San Bernardino Peak Trail. Elevation at the trail head is approximately 5,900 feet and we will proceed for 4 miles up to Manzanita Springs which is at 8,300 feet. We begin the hike steadily switch backing up the ridge through a forest of pines, oaks and white firs. In about 2 miles and 1,600 feet of elevation gains we will reach a long bench covered in chaparral whereupon we will reach our destination at Manzanita Springs. Although we will not summit this Peak is known for its Washington Monument commemorating the starting base for all of Southern California surveys. We will return via the same route.

## **MISSION CREEK PRESERVE**

**MODERATE: 5.2 miles; gain: 600 feet; area, Mission Creek Preserve; duration of hike, 3-4 hours; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 2024, Robert Heckert;**

**Prev: Robert Heckert, Ron Richardson**

Our hike will start in the Mission Creek preserve, which is part of the Wetlands Conservancy. We start at the Stone House day use and camping area after passing by many other stone house ruins (old T Cross K ranch). We will cross Mission creek and then follow it upstream on our trek to the ridge (2,200 ft.). Mission Creek follows a branch of the San Andreas Fault through a broad mountain valley rounded by alluvial fans. The trail gently rises through low scrub representing a transition between the Mojave and Sonoran desert environments. After joining the Pacific Crest Trail, our hike continues until an abrupt end at a cliff face which offers superb close-up views of Mt San Gorgonio, Mt San Jacinto, and the full length of the rocky Whitewater River Canyon below. Spectacular spring displays of wildflowers appear in the valley in wet years. Return same path. Bring hiking poles, trail snacks, cameras, and water

## **OAK GLEN FALL COLORS**

**EASY: 1-2 miles; gain: 100 feet; area, Oak Glen Preserve; duration of hike, 1-1.5 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: Nov 1, 2019, Heather Gehring/Phil Ferranti**

Enjoy a leisurely hike on the Oak Glen trails above Beaumont with guest hike leader, Philip Ferranti. Philip is a recognized local expert on hiking in our area and has written a very useful book called "140 Great Hikes in and Near Palm Springs". Fall colors should be a highlight, and tasty snack are available for lunch. Bring an extra layer since oak Glen is at 5000 ft elevation.

## **OLSEN RUINS**

**EASY/MODERATE: 4 to 5 miles; gain, 400 feet; area, Pioneertown Mountain Preserve; duration of hike, 2.5 to 3 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: November 26, 2021, Heather Gehring**

**Prev: Heather Gehring**

We will start at the Pioneertown Preserve ranger station. We will hike a very gradual ascent up the Pipes Canyon Trail to just past the Olsen Ruins and hear the story of the "famous Swedes". Petroglyphs, lush vegetation, and colorful rocks along the way. Bring a jacket since temperatures run 10-15 degrees cooler than Sun City.

## **PIPES CANYON INDIAN TRAIL LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6.5 miles; gain, 1000 feet; area, Pioneer Town Mountain Preserve; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 2023, Bendel/Biewer/Biewer/Farrell**

**Prev: Ross Vanderputten, Bendel/Biewer/Biewer/Farrell**

The hike will begin at the Pioneer Town Mountains Preserve parking lot at an elevation of 4400 ft. The first part of the trail follows a canyon that supports a riparian woodland. After about a mile, we will encounter ruins of a settlers' old stone house. We will continue hiking beside water and groves of cottonwoods and rushes. After another half mile, the trail will veer left climbing steeply to a saddle then continue upward through pinyon pines topping out at about 5300 ft elevation with spectacular views of Flat Top and Black Hill. We will stop at the top for a lunch break and enjoying the views before then proceeding downhill along the steep Indian Trail with scree and switchbacks, back to the Preserve. (A **7.5 mile option, with elevation gain of 1600 ft**, returns along the outgoing path after stopping at the top for a brief snack.) Be sure to bring plenty of water snacks or lunch, and extra layers of clothing since temperatures are usually 10-20 degrees cooler at this elevation. Sturdy hiking boots and hiking poles are recommended.

## **PIPES CANYON TO CHAPARROSA PEAK**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED; 6 Miles; gain, 1,100'; area, Pioneertown Mtns. Preserve; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: March 30, 2014, Irene Rosen & Heather Gehring**

we will start from the Preserve ranger station and hike 3 miles up to Chaparrosa Peak for magnificent views of San Jacinto Mountain and the valley below. Parts of the trail are steep and rocky, so shoes with good tread required and hiking poles recommended. Optional lunch at Pappy & Harriet's Saloon in Pioneertown following the hike.

## **RAINBOW ROCKS**

**EASY/MODERATE: 5 miles; gain, 500 ft.; duration of hike, 2 - 3 hrs; area, Whitewater Preserve; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: March 2023, Chris Vanderputten**

**Prev: Heather Gehring, Burt Falk, Chris Vanderputten, Ross Vanderputten**

The hike starts at the Whitewater Preserve which has stocked trout ponds. The hike then follows and crosses the Whitewater River a few times climbing gradually uphill towards a narrow canyon. Near the halfway point of the hike, a canyon with numerous "rainbow" colored rocks are visible along the trail. After reaching the rainbow rocks the hike will continue for another 0.5mi to a sycamore tree grove. We will return along the same trail and hopefully will see some big horn sheep that frequently graze in this area. We will hike a small portion of the Pacific Crest Trail during this hike.

## **RED DOME**

**EASY: 4 miles; gain, 300 feet; area, Whitewater Preserve; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 45 mins**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: February 8, 2022, Chris Vanderputten**

**Prev: Heather Gehring**

This easy hike will start at the Whitewater Preserve Ranger Station. We will hike on the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) North and follow the Whitewater River to the West Fork turnaround, just past Red Dome. This will be a great place for a snack break in the shade, and then we return along the same trail. Possible bighorn sheep sightings! Don't forget water.

## **REDWOODS, TRI-TIP LUNCH and HOT APPLE PIE! (A.K.A., APPLE RANCH YUM YUM TRAIL!)**

**EASY/MODERATE: 2.2 miles; gain, 200 feet; area; Oak Glen (N. of Beaumont); duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April 7, 2019, Laura Marshall; Prev: Bill Pivar; Pivar/ McNeel**

Enjoy an outing at Southern California's largest historic (103 year old) apple ranch and Wetlands Conservancy, with 10-15 degree cooler temps at this 4700 foot elevation. We pass by a mystic grove of misplaced Giant Sequoia and Redwoods. Enjoy myriads of waterfowl traversing a nearby pond as we hike parallel to a rushing stream through lush vegetation. This hike is largely EASY except for two short inclines where we stop for one of many water breaks. Take home a freshly baked apple pie and a variety of other gifts, and pumpkins all sizes from Riley's Country Store. Lunchtime: You can bring your lunch or enjoy a B.B.Q. Tri-Tip Sandwich plus other menu items including fresh apple pie ala mode! Can also be done as an Easy hike (1 1/2 miles, 100 foot gain). CAMERA, LIGHT JACKET, HIKING BOOTS, & TREKKING POLES RECOMMENDED.

**Also: EASY: 1.5 miles; gain, 100 feet; duration, 1 hour**

## **SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS MINI LOOP**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6 miles; gain, 600 feet; duration of hike, 3.5 hours**

**Area, Pioneertown; drive time one way, 50 mins**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 22, 2022, Bendil/Biewer/Biewer/Farrell**

**Prev: Irene Rosen**

Join us for a scenic loop hike in the Sawtooth Mountains west of Pioneertown. This six mile lightly traveled trail winds up and down on rolling hills through a photogenic boulder strewn landscape. There are a few short steep climbs that offer expansive desert views. We start this

moderately paced hike from the corner of Tom Mix Road and Mane (not Main) Street adjacent to the Pioneertown post office, elevation 4000 feet. **HIKING POLES RECOMMENDED**

### **TOUTAIN CANYON**

**EASY: 3.5 miles; gain, 100 ft.; area, Whitewater Preserve; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: February 24, 2022, Heather Gehring/Phil Ferranti**

This hike will be a flat canyon walkabout. Toutain Canyon lies just in front of the main Whitewater Canyon where it crosses underneath the road. In wet years this canyon offers lush vegetation and hillsides looking like Sonoma County with lots of Cottonwoods and Sycamore trees. In February there still may be some leftover "fall colors."

### **WHITEWATER CANYON VIEW LOOP**

**EASY/MODERATE: 3.5 miles; gain, 500 ft.; area, Whitewater Preserve; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: March, 2022, Brian Johnson**

**Prev: Myrna Harris, Jim Biewer, Bendel/Biewer/Biewer/Farrell, Hansen/Scapple**

Wilderness and the 2,650 mile-long Pacific Crest Trail. Our loop trail follows a section of the Pacific Coast Trail (PCT) south, ascending 500 ft to the top of a winding ridge, with excellent views of Whitewater Canyon, and the north face of Mt. San Jacinto. The trail starts near the Ranger Station, heads northwest, and winds up switchbacks for a short three-quarters of a mile. We will follow the path along the top of the ridge, stopping at several overlooks to enjoy excellent views of Whitewater Canyon, the north face of Mt. San Jacinto and southern flanks of Mt. San Gorgonio. Bighorn sheep are often seen grazing in an open area or on the surrounding mountains. We will proceed south and descend the ridge via several switchbacks, then hike the final leg upstream along the riverbed back to the Ranger Station. The descent back to the visitor center is rather steep and rocky so be sure to wear secure hiking shoes. Cameras, hats, hiking poles and sun screen highly recommend.

### **WHITEWATER CANYON VIEW TO RED ROCK**

**MODERATE: 5 miles; gain, 700 ft.; area, Whitewater Preserve; duration of hike, 4-5 hours; drive time one way, 40 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: February 2025, Robert Heckert**

**Prev: Robert Heckert**

Our trail follows a section of the Pacific Coast Trail (PCT) north, ascending 659 ft to the top of a winding ridge, with excellent views of Whitewater Canyon, and the north face of Mt. San Jacinto. We will park at the Ranger Station, then follow the river downstream to the road, where we will cross and then start winding up switchbacks to the ridge. We will follow the path along the top of the ridge, stopping at several overlooks to enjoy excellent views. We will proceed north and descend the ridge via several switchbacks to the river. Then we will walk (very easy) along the river upstream to Red Dome where we will stop for a snack. Finally turning back for the easy walk along the river back to the Ranger Station. Cameras, hats, hiking poles and sunscreen highly recommend. Bring lots of water!!!!

### **WHITEWATER PCT SOUTH & CANYON VIEW & SOUND OF MUSIC**

**MODERATE: 6 miles; gain, 600 feet; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; area, Whitewater Preserve; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December, 2018, Heather Gehring**

We will do an "Out and Back" hike, starting at the Ranger Station and connecting with the PCT South trail, hiking up a series of switchbacks until we reach a scenic plateau overlook. Hopefully lots of wildflowers will be blooming! Optional lunch at "Maracas" restaurant in Rancho Mirage.

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 7 miles; gain 800 feet; duration of hike, 4 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 2025, Jim & Linda Biewer**

**Prev: Ross Vanderputten**

We will start at the Ranger Station and cross the Whitewater river to connect with the PCT South trail. Depending on season and weather conditions, be aware that the river crossings may involve walking on slippery rocks. We will hike up a series of switchbacks and continue down the PCT until we reach the "**Sound of Music**" plateau where we will stop for a snack, enjoy the breathtaking views of the surrounding San Gorgonio wilderness, and perhaps re-enact that special moment in the movie! We will return to the top of the switchbacks and hike south along the canyon ridge back to the road and then follow the Whitewater River back to the Ranger Station. Lots of wildflowers in the proper season.

**MODERATE/ADVANCED (OUT-&-BACK VERSION OCCASIONED BY RANGER-BRIDGE WASHOUT): 7 miles; gain 800 feet; duration of hike, 4 hours**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: April, 2024, Bendel/Biewer/Farrell/Biewer**

We will begin this out and back hike from Whitewater Canyon Road with a steep ascent on switchbacks as we climb the foothills to the PCT Trail intersection. From there we will head south on the PCT to the "Sound of Music" plateau, where we will stop for a snack and enjoy the beauty of Whitewater Preserve. Mountainsides will be covered with blooming brittlebush and wildflowers. We will return to our cars the same way we hiked in.

## **WHITEWATER RIVER CANYON TO RED DOME**

**MODERATE: 5.25 miles; gain, 1050 feet; area, Whitewater Preserve; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 35 mins**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: Nov 27, 2020, Linda&Jim Biewer**

Due to the Whitewater Preserve parking lot being closed at this time, please park on the shoulder of the road by the river. Our hike will also start at the river. This hike offers a wonderful canyon and riverbed experience along the Whitewater River, the main runoff from San Gorgonio watershed into the Coachella Valley. We will see vegetation growing alongside and in the river, and on the cliffs of the canyon. Our hike, along the western bank of the river, follows the famous Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) north to the main river plain, where we will be treated to majestic canyon and mountain vistas to the north and west. This will be a great spot for a snack break and then we return along the same trail. Note that there is a set of rock/boulder stairs leading up to the PCT/Red Dome trail shortly after the river crossing. Hiking poles may help less experienced hikers or hikers with balance issues navigate these stairs. Don't forget hiking poles, a camera to capture the beauty of Whitewater's fall colors, water and your snacks!

## **WHITEWATER TO MISSION CREEK KEY EXCHANGES**

**MODERATE: 6.5 miles; gain, 600 feet; area, Whitewater/MissionCreek; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 30 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: March, 2019, Duane Paschall & Ray Cheney; Prev: Fald/Linville**

This is a Key exchange hike: One group will begin from the Whitewater Preserve Ranger Station hiking to the Stone House at Mission Creek. The other group will begin from the Stone House in the Mission Creek Preserve & hike to the Whitewater Ranger Station. This Hike

includes traveling portions of the Pacific Crest Trail, following a branch of the San Andreas Fault, crossing the White water creek, and climbing a ridge that, at the top, offers superb views of Mt. Gorgonio, Mt. San Jacinto and the full length of the rocky Whitewater River Canyon below. Spectacular spring displays of wildflowers appear in the Mission Creek Valley in wet years. We hope this time of year will achieve outstanding displays of these flowers. Bring Trail snacks and water. Hiking poles recommended. Be prepared to cross the Whitewater Creek.

**ADVANCED: 7.7 miles; gain, 900 feet from Whitewater Preserve Area, 1000 feet from Mission Creek Preserve; duration of hike, 4.5 hours; drive time one way, 40 minutes; carpool fee, \$5**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike; November 24, 2014, Burt Falk & Ken Linville**

This will be a key exchange hike with one group starting at the Whitewater Preserve parking lot and the other at Mission Creek Preserve gate. From Whitewater it's 0.8 miles across the Whitewater River to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), 3.1 miles on the PCT and 3.8 miles on the Mission Creek Trail to the gate. At Whitewater Preserve there's a visitor center and trout ponds. On the Mission Creek Trail we will pass by an interesting stone house with a picnic ground.

## **OROCOPIA MTN WILDERNESS/ CHUCKWALLA MTNS**

### **OBSIDIAN BUTTE, MUD VOLCANOES, SONNY BONO WILDLIFE/BIRD REFUGE & SALVATION MOUNTAIN**

**EASY: 2 miles; gain: 200 feet; area, Salton Sea; duration of Hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way, 1 Hr. 20 Min**

**Date & leader of most recent hikes: December 7, 2017, Bill Pivar**

Walk among bubbling pools of prehistoric volcanoes, climb an ancient obsidian butte and drive a short distance to enjoy a tour through the refuge—home to over 400 bird species. Bring a lunch & beverage for a picturesque picnic at the refuge center. Location is along the course of the Pacific Flyway in the Imperial Valley. Optional: On our drive back, a stop at Salvation Mountain, a visionary of artwork painted into a mountainside, then on to Oasis Date Gardens in Thermal for Date Shakes, Ice Cream and sample many varieties of dates.

### **RED CLOUD AND GREAT WESTERN MINE TOUR**

**ADVANCED: 7 miles; gain: 400 feet; area Orocopia Mountain Wilderness; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: February 15, 2017, Ray Cheeney**

Explore history in the Orocopia Wilderness by visiting the Red Cloud and Great Western Gold Mines, which started up in early 1887. We will visit the ruins of the remains of a stamping mill, cyanide leaching pits as well as the two mines including some of their rigging frame work and machinery. Adventurous hikers who wish to inspect the interior of a mine should bring headlamps or flashlights (canaries optional). Our trail is mostly on an old Jeep road with some side trips off trail. We will need drivers with high clearance vehicles to reach our trail.

# ANZA-BORREGO STATE PARK

## BORREGO PALM CANYON

**MODERATE: 3.25 miles; gain, 450 feet; area, A-B State Park; duration of hike, 2 hours; drive time one way, 90 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: March 2025, Beverly Hackett & Warner Paige**

Let's leave EARLY for the long drive and to beat the crowds. It's well worth it! Borrego Palm Canyon is a wide trench descending west to east down the San Ysidro Mountains just west of Borrego Springs in the [Anza-Borrego Desert State Park](#), the largest park in CA. The popularity of the trail exploring Borrego Palm Canyon has endured, as it leads to the third largest palm oasis in California. This 3.25 mile loop ascends 450 feet to a shady oasis in an alluring desert canyon. Many birds and maybe a bighorn to see. There is a seasonal waterfall (if they get some rain) and a wonderful trail to explore desert plants. On the way back we may pass by some of the 130 large scale metal sculptures, like the Giant Scorpion, that were created by Ricardo Breceda. Further on, returning via Henderson Canyon Road, the wildflowers are spectacular in season.

## CALCITE MINE

**MODERATE: 4 miles; gain, 800 feet; area, A-B State Park; duration of hike, 2 - 3 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 19, 2014, Burt Falk**

Beginning at a turnoff on State Hwy. 22, about 10 miles west of Salton City, this hike wends up an eroded jeep road to an abandoned calcite mine. "During World War II, the area was an important site for the extraction of optical-grade calcite crystals for use in gun-sights." Crystals can still be seen strewn around, glittering in the sunlight. On our way back, we'll pass through a slot canyon that narrows until it allows the passage of only one person at a time (think Ladders Canyon).

## HELLHOLE CANYON

**EASY/MODERATE: 4 miles; gain, 700 feet; area, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park; duration of hike, 2.5 hours; drive time one way 1 hr 15 mins**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: Heather Gehring, February 22, 2020; Prev: Burt Falk**

Come check out Borrego Springs on this very easy "moderate" hike in Anza Borrego State Park. We hike through a gentle wash and just a few small boulder areas to gain beautiful panoramic views of Borrego Springs and the surrounding mountains. This hike goes as far as the first oasis. The Ocotillos might be in bloom!

**MODERATE: 5 miles; gain, 700 feet; duration of hike: 3 hours**

This is a moderate hike with just a few small boulder scrambling spots; The hike is mostly in a gentle wash with beautiful views of Borrego Springs and the surrounding mountains.

## TRAVERTINE PALMS OASIS

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 7 miles; gain, 370 feet; area, Riverside/Imperial County Line; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike, January 23, 2015, Burt Falk**

The Travertine Palms Oasis, consisting of 70 palms, is located about 2 miles south of the Riverside/Imperial County Line, approximately 4 miles west of Highway 86. This hike is described in the Lindsay's *The Anza-Borrego Desert Region*, however, there is no longer a trail from the dirt county line road to the oasis. In fact, we will be hiking over a rocky alluvial fan,

looking first for a small cave just west of the oasis, "undoubtedly, an Indian shelter with the roof blackened by the smoke of campfires," after which we'll stop for a break at the oasis. **BRING A HIKING POLE AND A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR**

## **PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ADVENTURES**

### **EAGLE ROCK via PCT**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 6.5 miles; gain 850 feet; area, Warner Springs; duration of hike, 3.5 hours; drive time one way, 1.75 hours**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: March 2023, Pat Fonstad**

**Prev: Pat Fonstad, Ray Cheeney**

If you do any part of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), this is a must! This hike begins in Warner Springs on the PCT heading south. Our hike starts off through a tree canopied creek side trail for approximately 1.5 miles, which then opens up to rolling grass fields until we reach our destination. En route we will view Palomar Observatory and Lake Henshaw in the distance. Our photogenic destination is a compilation of Nature's rocks, which forms "Eagle Rock", a true phenomena and must be seen to be believed. Return same path. This is not a difficult hike. The footing is soft, and the incline is gradual. It is a long drive to get there but worth every moment of it. Julian, with its apples and apple pie, is nearby if anyone wants to visit it after. Bring plenty of water.

### **EIGHTH WONDER OF THE NATURAL WORLD**

**MODERATE: 8-1/2 miles; gain, 500'; area, San Diego County; duration of hike, 4 hours; drive time one way, 1.5 hours**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: December 2, 2013, Nina Thomas & Burt Falk**

Drive to Warner Springs, leave one car at the north end of the hike, take the rest of the cars and all hikers south to the Barrel Springs Trailhead where we'll begin the hike on the excellent Pacific Crest Trail--passing by the stupendous 8th Wonder (**Eagle Rock**) on the way.

### **TULE TRUCK TRAIL TO CHIHUAHUA VALLEY ROAD (a key exchange)**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 10.3 miles, gain: 2,500 feet (south to north); area, Bucksnort Mountains; duration of hike, 4.5 hours; drive time one way, 1.5 hours**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike: February 17, 2015, Burt Falk, Roger Dolliff**

Excellent trail offers wonderous views of the Anza-Borrego area and the backside of the Santa Rosas. Bad weather cancels.

### **SOUTH OF HWY 74**

**ADVANCED: 10 miles; gain: 1200 feet; area,Santa Rosa Mountains; duration of hike, 4 1/2 hours; drive time one way, 50 minutes**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: December 10, 2014, Ken Linville**

This hike is on the famous Pacific Crest Trail. Our section will take us from Hwy 74, 5 miles southerly to a dirt road on the side of Table Mountain. We will start at a dirt parking lot on the north side of Hwy 74 and trek southerly over a saddle and then mostly down grade to Alkali Wash then back up to our turn around spot. Good views of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains and Terwilliger Valley.

## **NORTH OF HWY 74**

**MODERATE: 6 miles, gain, 600 ft; area, San Jacinto Mtns/Garner valley; duration of hike: 3 to 4 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: April 2025, Don Bailey**

**Prev: Heather Gehring, Don Bailey, MonMornHk&BagelGang, Nina&Lee Thomas**

Come experience this lovely north section of the PCT off Highway 74. This segment is well maintained and a pleasure to hike. We begin heading north at an elevation of 4900 feet in Garner Valley and meander along a ridge where you can appreciate views of the scrub oak, manzanita and sage as we wind down and over to another ridge with more breathtaking mountain views and a distant ranch or two. Enjoy the peace and tranquility of this famous trail. The PCT spans 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada through three western states. However, on this day, we will do just 2.9 miles in (one way). The last quarter mile is up and rocky, so hiking poles are recommended. Pack a snack, as we stop at a lovely lookout point for a break. WATER, AND CAMERAS RECOMMENDED.

**EASY/MODERATE: 5 to 6 miles, gain, 500 ft; area, duration of hike: 3 hours or less**

**Date&leader of most recent hike: March, 2024, Don Bailey**

**Prev: Don Bailey**

A shorter version. This is a wonderful undulating hike at a cooler 4,000 feet of elevation in green trees and shrubs on the famous PCT. The trail is excellent. As we near the turn around point, it goes up a rocky outcrop on the trail to get to our lookout and resting/lunch point. No problem for desert hikers, and a delightful green change from our desert hikes.. This is in & out but it feels like a different trail coming out.

## **HWY 74 TO JO POND TRAILHEAD, A KEY EXCHANGE**

**ADVANCED: 14 miles; gain: 1,700 feet; area, Desert Divide San Jacinto Mtns; duration of hike, 6 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour**

**Date&leaders of most recent hike: April 30, 2015, Burt Falk & Roger Dolliff**

The PCT, heading south to north, first rambles 2 miles through thick chaparral, then begins a gradualclimb toward Pine Mtn. Then, climbing the mountainside, the trail tops a 2 mile long ridge, which offers "spectacular views of the Coachella Valley, Thomas Mountain, the Palomar Mountains, and the Santa Rosas." On reaching the junction with the Jo Pond Trail, we then proceed down two miles to reach our waiting transportation. Vice Versa, north to South.

## **PACIFIC CREST TRAIL SOUTH FROM SNOW CREEK**

**MODERATE/ADVANCED: 4 to 5 miles; gain, 800 to 1,000 feet; duration of hike, 3 to 4 hours; area, Snow Creek; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: December 2023, Laurie McCully**

**Prev: Pat Fonstad, Irene Rosen**

Join us for a moderate and very scenic in/out hike. The trail is part of the PCT and starts at the foot of Mt. San Jacinto, just before the village of Snow Creek, where the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) crosses Snow Creek Rd. We do a steady 2.5-mile ascent up the PCT, initially on asphalt, and then continue up the well-groomed trail. Witness the re-sprouting of plants after the 6200-acre Snow Fire in September 2020. We pass by lots of large, interesting, photogenic boulders. We'll stop for lunch with great views of Snow Valley and San Gorgonio Peak (elev. 11,490 ft) in the distance. Return via the same path. A wind jacket and camera are highly recommended, along with hiking poles, snacks, and plenty of water.

## **SNOW CREEK VILLAGE TO WHITEWATER PRESERVE**

**ADVANCED: 12.2 miles; gain, 2,200 feet; area, San Gorgonio Pass/Whitewater; duration of hike, 6.5 hours; drive time one way; 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 7, 2015, Burt Falk**

This will be a car shuttle hike along the famous PCT. The hike will begin at Snow Creek Village Trailhead, cross under Interstate 10, traverse northerly to Cottonwood trailhead and then continue northeasterly through and over the hills, down a canyon and across the Whitewater River to the Preserve. The last 0.7 miles of the 12.2 miles will be on a side trail crossing the river to the Whitewater Preserve parking lot. Interesting fact that where the Trail goes under Interstate 10 at an elevation of approximately 1,200 feet, it is the lowest spot on the entire 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada.

## **WHITEWATER & WINDMILLS KEY EXCHANGE**

**ADVANCED: 8 miles; gain, 1800 feet; area, Windmills/Whitewater; duration of hike, 5 hours; drive time one way, 35 minutes**

**Date & leaders of most recent hike; March 24, 2018, Burt Falk & Duane Paschall**

This advanced key exchange hike is a segment of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) between the Windmills and White Water Preserve. This hike has remote beauty & challenge. Bring lunch, snacks & plenty of water. Hiking poles are suggested.

## **OTHERS**

### **SIERRA PEAK**

**ADVANCED: 14.0 miles; gain, 3,000 feet; area, above Corona; duration of hike, 7.5 hours; drive time one way, 1 hour 45 minutes**

**Date & leader of most recent hike: January 31, 2013, Ken Linville**

3,045 foot Sierra Peak stands at the north end of the Santa Ana Mountain Range above the Santa Ana River Canyon and Prado Dam. Once we trek above Tin Mine Canyon, views open up to Chino Hills and the distance towering San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountain ranges including the Santa Ana River.