

Today's trail: hike to Eureka Point. Finding the trail head is a bit tough if taking off from campsite 30, as some of the maps indicate. The map obtained from the ranger has the link from site 30 to the intersection obliterated, and suggests that ALL trails start from the backcountry board. I now understand why. The "Westside Loop" trail connects to the Black Rock Wash trail which connects to the Burnt Hill Loop trail, just below the water tank. The service road continues down back into where the campground and the trailheads all meet at the backcountry board.

Burnt Hill Loop is a moderate continuous climb from the campground at 3980 to 4890 with a brief drop to the intersection of the Eureka Peak Trail, which climbs sharply to Eureka Point, Eureka Peak being at 5518, about 100 feet above the Point. Of note, Eureka Point is accessible from entering the park via La Contenta Road, up a jeep trail. Observing the map at the backcountry board indicates a day loop trail that starts and terminates at the end of the road at Eureka Point. The view across to San Jacinto from here is spectacular.

This (moderately strenuous, 10 miles roundtrip¹) trail took our group roughly six hours, and quite filled the day; we certainly didn't feel the need to keep hiking once we'd made it back to the trailhead.

Sunday Afternoon: Hi-View Nature Trail (1.3mi loop)

Monday Afternoon: Wonderland Wash Trail

This one brings about part of what I'm interested in with this project, something I've been interested in all my life, documentation. This trail is not documented by the park service. This is hike 21 in the Falcon Guide *Best Easy Day Hikes Joshua Tree*, Cunningham & Burke (ISBN 1-56044-978-0). Although, in reviewing satellite images and our recall of the hike, I don't think we made it as far in to the Wonderland of Rocks as we expected to. As this is not a *designated trail* by the park service, completing this hike will need to wait until all the *designated trails* have been hiked.

From a coverage point of view, I've now hiked the first mile of the California Riding & Hiking Trail in both directions. Left to do on/around this map:

- Warren Peak & Warren View (6mi RT)
- South Park Peak (0.8mi loop)
- Panorama Loop (6.25mi loop)
- Westside Loop (minimal documentation)
- Boundary Trail East
- Loop from Eureka Point
- Bigfoot Trail - Covington Trail – Deerhorn Trail (from Eureka Peak)

Based from North entry, the following research/trails is/are indicated:

- Fortynine Palms Oasis (Canyon Road) (3mi) (recon: 3+ hour w/lunch trip)
- Oasis of Mara (visited)
- North Entrance Station "day trail map?" (visited)

Other trails in Joshua Tree²:

- Lost Palms Oasis (8mi)
- Cottonwood Spring/Mortons Mill Site (1mi)
- Cholla Cactus Garden Nature Trail (0.25mi)
- Sand Dunes (2.5mi)
- Pushwalla Pass (5.6mi)
- Keys View and Inspiration Peak (1.75mi)
- Lost Horse Mine (4mi)
- Arch Rock Nature Trail (0.3mi)
- Crown Prince Lookout (3mi)
- Ryan Mountain (3mi)
- Cap Rock Nature Trail (0.4mi)
- Lucky Boy Vista (2.5mi)
- Desert Queen Mine and Wash (4mi)
- Pine City Site (3.4mi)
- Indian Cove Nature Trail (0.6mi)
- Wall Street Mill (1.5mi)
- Wonderland Wash (2mi) (2/15/10, Tracy Condra)

1 Source: *Black Rock Canyon Hiking Trails* leaflet available from park ranger. No pub# or copyright.

2 Source: *Best Easy Day Hikes Joshua Tree*, Bill Cunningham and Polly Burke. ISBN 1-56044-978-0