Non-Wilderness Trails
Wilderness Day Use Permit
Not Required for Day Hiking.

South Fork Trail (2E17) This 4.5 mile moderate trail starts at Hwy 74 from an elevation of 3800 ft. The trail descends to the South Fork of the San Jacinto River, gradually climbing to an elevation of 4600 ft. at Rouse Ridge Road. Park at the Caltrans cinder bin turnout on Highway 74 west of Mountain Center. The trail provides access to fishing at the river.

Webster Trail (2E16) Beginning on Forest Road 5S10 this 2.5 mile strenuous trail descends west to the North Fork of the San Jacinto River. Pine and cedar trees grace the Webster trail which proceeds over a ridge, it passes through chaparral. Ending in streamside willows offering excellent views of the San Jacinto and Hemet Valleys. Beginning elevation is 5400 ft. with an 1800 ft. elevation change.

Palm Canyon Trail (4E01) This moderate trail starts off of Hwy 74 west of the Pinyon Flat Campground. It heads north, descending the length of Palm Canyon to Palm Springs. The Forest Service boundary ends 9 miles from Hwy 74. Written permission is required, beyond this point, from the Agua Caliente Tribal Council, as portions of Palm Canyon Trail cross their land. For more information call (760) 416-7044.

Pacific Crest Trail The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) extends 2,600 miles from Mexico to Canada. Although a few have traveled the length in one trip, most hike the trail in sections. The San Jacinto District contains 55 miles of the PCT, beginning 1/4 mile east of the junction of State Hwys. 371 and 74 in Garner Valley. It passes through the wilderness and exits north of Cabazon Peak near Interstate 10 in the San Gorgonio Pass east of Banning. A hiking permit is required for travel through the wilderness section.

Black Mountain Trail (2E35) This 3.6 mile strenuous trail leaves from Hwy 243, 1.3 miles south of Vista Grande Fire Station. The trail begins in chaparral at 4480 ft. and ends on the forested slopes of Black Mountain at an elevation 7772 ft. There are excellent views of the Banning Pass and Mt. San Gorgonio.

Permits - Day hiking and/or overnight backpacking in the San Jacinto Wilderness requires a Wilderness Permit; there is no fee. Permits are available at the Idyllwild Ranger Station. For more information call (909)382-2921 or (951)659-2117 Fax (951)659-2107.

Water - Always treat water from open sources. Treat surface water by filtration, tablets or bring water to a rolling boil for at least 15 minutes.

Permits - Hiking can be hazardous. Stay alert for mountain lions, rattle snakes, downed trees, falling limbs, poison oak, rugged terrain, and quickly changing weather conditions. Be prepared with the Hiker’s Ten Essential Items, including a map.

Wilderness Essentials
1. Water and Filter or Tablets
2. Map and Compass (optional GPS)
3. Extra Water, Clothing and Food
4. First Aid Kit
5. Flashlight with Extra Batteries
6. Matches and Fire Starter
7. Knife
8. Sunglasses and Sunscreen
9. Trowel to bury Human Waste
10. Whistle

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*RECREATION PASS REQUIRED*
All vehicles parked at some of the parking areas on the San Bernardino National Forest are required to display one of the following: Adventure Pass, (can also be used in Cleveland, Angeles and Los Padres National Forests), America the Beautiful Pass (Annual, Senior or Access), National Parks Pass (with eagle hologram), Golden Eagle Passport, Golden Age Passport (must be at least 62 years of age), or Golden Access Passport (blind or physically disabled).
Don’t Forget Your Permit Wilderness Trail
Wilderness Day Use Permit Required

Devil’s Slide Trail (3E05) This moderate trail ascends from Humber Park to Saddle Junction with many switchbacks and panoramic views. Starting at 6280 ft. the gain in elevation is 1700 ft. From Saddle Junction, trails lead to San Jacinto Peak (10,804 ft.), the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (8516 ft.), and Tahquitz Peak Lookout (8828 ft.) The Pacific Crest Trail passes through Saddle Junction.

Deer Springs Trail This moderate trail begins at Hwy 243 one mile north of Idyllwild, at an elevation of 5600 ft. A branch trail leads to the top of Suicide Rock, with a gain of 1700 ft. from the trailhead. From here, panoramic views of Idyllwild and the rugged granite cliff of Tahquitz (Lily) Rock. The Deer Springs Trail continues to San Jacinto Peak with a gain of 5200 ft. from the trailhead. Adventure Pass is not required.

South Ridge Trail (3E08) This moderate trail to Tahquitz Peak Lookout and the Pacific Crest Trail begins at 6800 ft. with an elevation gain is 2000 ft. Hikers experience breathtaking views of the Desert Divide, Strawberry Valley and beyond. Hiking during the summer is recommended for morning hours as it can be hot and dry later in the day. Follow signs on Saunders Meadow Road leading to South Ridge Trail and Forest access road 5S11.

Fuller Ridge Trail This moderate trail is part of the Pacific Crest Trail. Starting at 7600 ft. it follows the high timbered ridge above Snow Creek offering spectacular views of the desert. The trail joins Deer Springs Trail at an elevation of 9200 ft. where a strenuous portion proceeds 2.5 miles to San Jacinto Peak (10,804 ft.) Recommended season is June-October. Access from Black Mountain Road (4S01), a forest road, is usually closed from November-May.

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Area Trails Trails start from the Tramway at 8615 ft. Hiking to Round Valley you will gain 600 ft. in elevation; San Jacinto Peak 2300 ft.; and the National Forest Wilderness (closest point is Willow Creek crossing), elevation descent 900 ft..

Spitler Peak Trail (3E22) This strenuous 5 mile trail climbs from a trailhead elevation of 4920 ft. to 7000 ft.. The trail intersects the Pacific Crest Trail north of Spitler Peak along the Desert Divide. Hiking may be warm during the summer as the trail travels through chaparral up to oaks and pines. Access to the trail is from Apple Canyon Road off of Hwy 74 near Lake Hemet.

Marion Mountain Trail (2E14) Heavily forested, this strenuous trail is the shortest route to San Jacinto Peak. The trail begins from the road leading to, and shortly before, Marion Mountain Campground. It climbs the northwest flank of the Marion Ridge offering far reaching vistas. Beginning elevation is 6320 ft. with an elevation change of 2300 ft. to the junction of Deer Springs Trail.

Climbers Trail This 0.5 mile trail is used primarily by rock climbers to access the base of Suicide Rock. It begins at Fern Valley Road by the Water Agency facility. The trail travels through private property; please respect private property rights and stay on the trail. For the climbers trail, register at the sign in box a short way up the trail; this is your permit. Adventure Pass not required.

Cactus Spring Trail (5E01) strenuous (Santa Rosa Wilderness) To enter the Santa Rosa Wilderness register at the sign in box a short way beyond the trailhead; this is your wilderness permit. Park at the Sawmill trailhead on Forest Road 7S09. A high desert trail, it begins in Pinyon Flat at 4000 ft. to Horsethief Creek. The trail continues 15 miles through Martinez Canyon to State Hwy 74 in the low desert. Beyond Cactus Spring the trail may be difficult to follow.

Seven Pines Trail (2E13) This strenuous trail follows the North Fork of the San Jacinto River to the headwater at Deer Springs. The trail is heavily forested with plenty of switchbacks. Drive through Dark Canyon Campground to the trailhead; the campground access road is normally closed October - May. Beginning elevation is 6320 ft. with an elevation gain of 2300 ft. to the junction of Deer Springs Trail.

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Ernie Maxwell Scenic Trail This easy scenic 2.6 mile trail leaves from Humber Park. Beginning at 6100 ft. and crossing streams along the way, it descends 600 ft. It is a good walk for beginning botanists with many different species of trees found along the way.

Fobes Trail (4E02) This moderate trail starts at the end of Fobes Ranch Road (6S05). The 1.5 mile trail winds through chaparral and oaks to intersect the Pacific Crest Trail. This is a good route to access Spitler Peak and Palm View Peak. Beginning elevation is 5200 ft. with a gain of 800 ft..

Ramona Trail (3E25) This moderate 3 mile trail climbs 1500 ft. offering views of Garner Valley. Starting at 4400 ft. the hike ascends to Toolbox Spring on Thomas Mountain Road (6S13). Trailhead sign is about 3.5 miles south of Lake Hemet on Hwy 74.

Cedar Springs Trail (4E17) This moderate trail begins on Morris Ranch Road 4 miles north of Hwy 74. The trail travels through private property; please respect private property rights and stay on the dirt road. This 3.2 mile hike begins at 5760 ft. The trail connects with the Pacific Crest Trail along the Desert Divide south of Palm View Peak at an elevation of 6400 ft. To reach Cedar Spring cross the PCT and continue northeast for one mile.

Cahuilla Mountain Trail (2E45) This moderate 2.5 mile trail begins at Cahuilla Saddle, elevation 4480 ft. on Forest Road 6S22 in Anza. It then proceeds up the northeast slope through thickets of chaparral, Live Oak, and Coulter Pine. From the 5604 ft. summit are views of the area that Juan Bautista de Anza traveled through on his expedition in 1776.