



San Jacinto Adventures



The San Jacinto and Santa Rosa area is best known for its contrast of landscapes. The subalpine forest of pine and fir is not far from the barrel cactus and palm trees of the desert. Sightseers have many views of flatlands and rolling hills as well as rock-ribbed peaks that soar above the tiny village of Idyllwild.

While the San Bernardino Mountains stretch east-west, these mountains stretch north-south. The San Jacinto's are the backdrop to Palm Springs on the north & east, Hemet on the west, & Anza Valley to the south.

A mixture of private, county, state, and federal facilities provide services for visitors throughout the year. Call the Chamber of Commerce (951-659-3259) for lodging information. The County Nature Center (951-659-3850) offers information and exhibits just north of Idyllwild. The State Park Ranger Station (951-659-2607) issues Wilderness permits.

The Forest Service Ranger Station, in downtown Idyllwild at Pinecrest Ave. and Hwy 243 (909-382-2921), sells books and maps and also issues Wilderness permits. The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument Visitor Center (760-862-9984) is on Hwy 74 just south of

Palm Desert. This Bureau of Land Management facility has exhibits about desert wildlife, history and a short nature trail.

Adventure #8

Palms to Pines Scenic Drive

Follow this designated National Scenic Byway from Palm Desert to Banning Pass. The 67-mile route travels from desert oasis to snow-peaked mountains. Many roadside pull-offs with interpretive panels tell the story of the early inhabitants of the mountains, wildlife, and the effect of fire on the mountain landscape.

Directions: Take State Hwy 74 south out of Palm Desert (elevation 248 feet). Follow 74 up the desert mountainside, through Garner Valley to Mountain Center. Take State Hwy 243 toward Idyllwild (elevation 5,303 ft.). The Scenic Byway continues along the edge of the mountain, through forest and chaparral and then drops to Banning in San Gorgonio Pass at 2,349 feet.

Distance and Time: From Palm Desert to Banning is 67 miles, but plan on at least 2 hours to enjoy all the sights. A round trip from Palm Desert is approximately 110 miles and 2 to 3 hours.

Seasons: The highways are open all year, though snow can hamper travel in the winter. Be sure to check mountain weather before beginning your trip.

Points of Interest: Cahuilla Tewanet interpretive site, Garner Valley, Lake Hemet, views of San Jacinto peaks, Idyllwild, County Visitor Center, Lake Fulmor, Indian Vista interpretive panels, views of Banning Pass, the San Andreas Fault, and San Gorgonio Wilderness.

Adventure #9

San Jacinto Wilderness Hike The Devil's Slide Trail

For great views of Suicide Rock and Idyllwild, take the Devil's Slide Trail from Humber Park. This trail, named after the slide at the base of Tahquitz Rock, takes you on easy switchbacks through fine stands of black oak, Jeffrey pine, white pine, and incense cedar. The higher you go, the better the views! A good end point is Saddle Junction, but you can continue on to Tahquitz Peak Lookout, the Pacific Crest Trail, and many other trails in the San Jacinto Wilderness. A free permit is required for hiking in the Wilderness in addition to an Adventure Pass. Stop at the Idyllwild Ranger Station for

the permit, the Pass, and trail information.

Directions: From the Idyllwild Ranger Station, follow Pinecrest Drive to Fern Valley Corners, turn right, and then left on Fern Valley Road to end at Humber Park (3 miles). This is a very busy area on summer weekends so plan on having time to hunt for a parking space!

Distance, Time and Difficulty: It's 2.5 miles uphill to Saddle Junction. Plan on 2 to 3 hours for the round trip. This is an easy to moderate hike with an elevation gain of 1,700 feet. Bring plenty of water. It is not advised to drink water from springs and streams in the national forest.

Season: The best time to hike is between May and November, but you may be able to hike in winter depending on the snow fall. Wilderness permits are limited on weekends and holidays.

Points of Interest: Tahquitz (Lily) Rock visible from Humber Park, Suicide Rock, Middle Spring, and Saddle Junction. Jeffrey pine, Coulter pine, and oak trees; woodpeckers, Steller's jays, and red-tailed hawks.

Adventure #10

Fishing Fun

Some mountain lakes and streams are stocked regularly. Lake Hemet, to the south of Idyllwild, is owned and operated by the Lake Hemet Municipal Water District. The

water district (909-659-2680) operates a campground and boat launching site, and the Forest Service operates a picnic and fishing area. Lake Fulmor, to the north of Idyllwild, has a fully accessible pier, picnic tables, and toilets. The San Jacinto River in Dark Canyon, also north of Idyllwild, is another popular fishing site. A state *fishing license is required* for persons 16 years and older. Call 562-590-5020 for a recording with stocking information (updated weekly).

Directions: Lake Hemet is on Hwy 74, 8 miles south of Idyllwild. Lake Fulmor is 10 miles northeast of Idyllwild on Hwy 243. To get to Dark Canyon take Hwy 243, 5.6 miles north from Idyllwild to Marion Mt. Road (Forest Road 4S02). Turn left before Stone Creek Campground and continue 3 miles to the campground (roads are paved all the way). The river runs through the campground.

Season: all year depending on weather and road conditions.

Fish: Lake Hemet is frequently stocked with rainbow trout but also contains channel catfish, black bullheads, brown bullheads, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, bluegill, carp, and largemouth bass. Lake Fulmor has rainbow trout and bluegill. The North Fork

of the San Jacinto River has rainbow trout.

Adventure #11

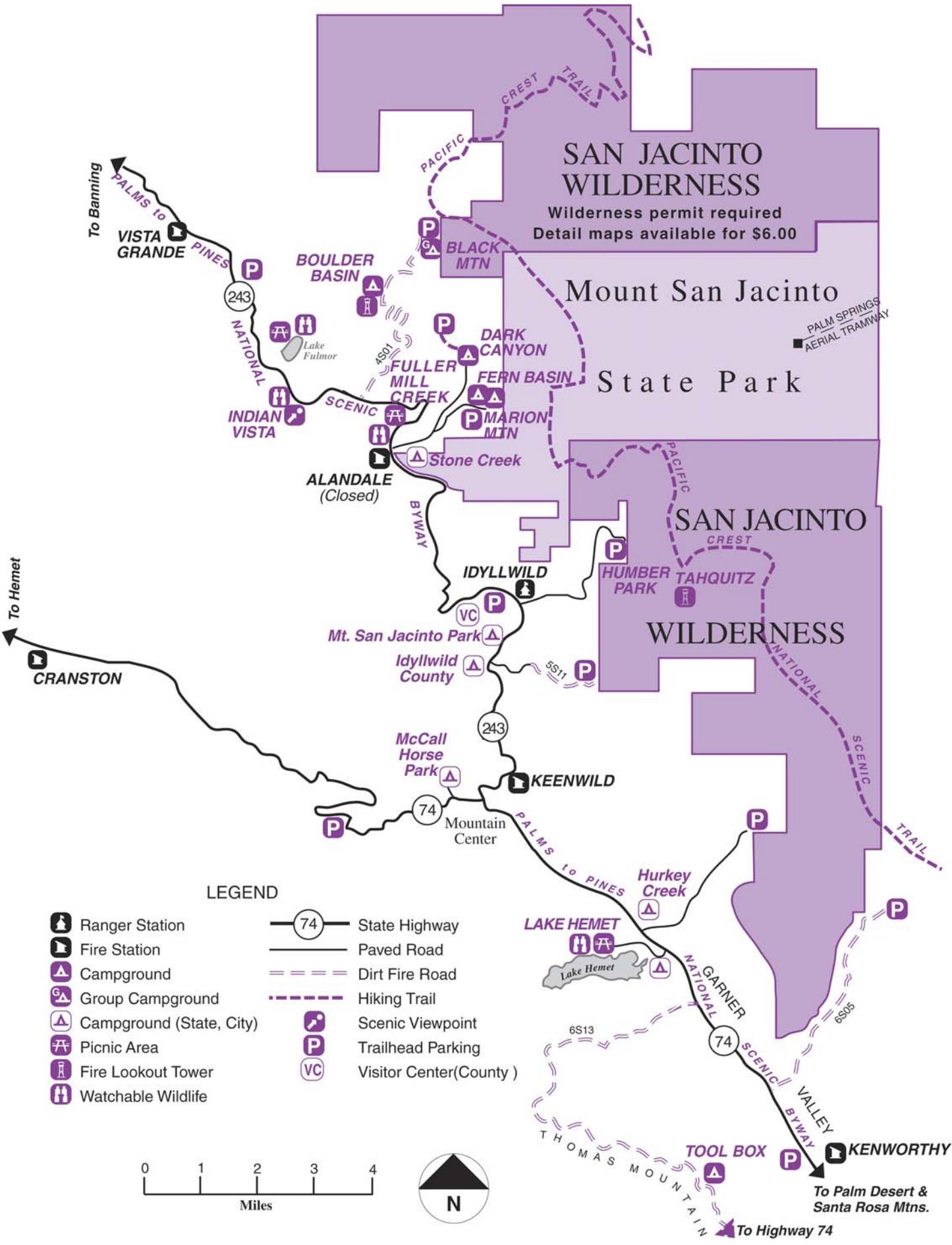
Thomas Mountain Backroad Drive

If you want to get off the main roads, try a drive up Thomas Mountain near Garner Valley. Charles Thomas settled in Garner Valley in the mid-1880's and raised Mexican longhorn cattle and 12 children. He bought his land from the Cahuilla Indians and later sold it to San Bernardino stockman Robert Garner.

Directions: From Idyllwild, take Hwy 243 south to Hwy 74. Continue on 74 (toward Palm Desert). Just past Lake Hemet, turn right on the Thomas Mountain Rd. (Forest Road 6S13). Follow the road for 8 miles to the top. From the Thomas Mountain Campground, hike uphill about 15 minutes to the summit. To return, you can continue southeast on the road downhill. After 10 miles you rejoin Hwy 74.

Distance and Time: Round trip from Idyllwild is about 45 miles, including 18 miles on a dirt road. Expect to take 2 to 3 hours for the scenic drive.

Points of Interest: The dirt road climbs through chaparral and pine forest. The views from the road are spectacular. Below is Lake Hemet, to the east is the San Jacinto Range, and on a clear day you can see Mount Palomar.



SAN JACINTO WILDERNESS

Wilderness permit required
Detail maps available for \$6.00

Mount San Jacinto

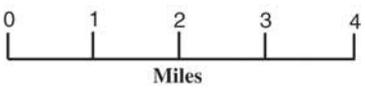
State Park

SAN JACINTO CREST WILDERNESS

WILDERNESS

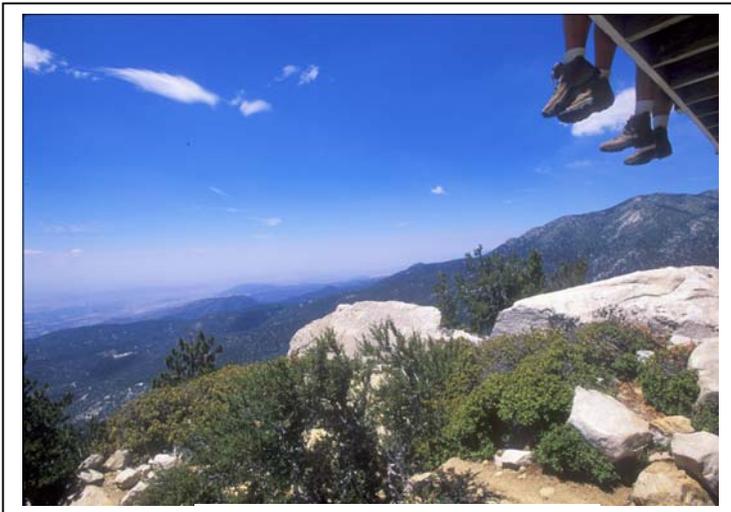
LEGEND

- Ranger Station
- Fire Station
- Campground
- Group Campground
- Campground (State, City)
- Picnic Area
- Fire Lookout Tower
- Watchable Wildlife
- State Highway 74
- Paved Road
- Dirt Fire Road
- Hiking Trail
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Trailhead Parking
- Visitor Center (County)

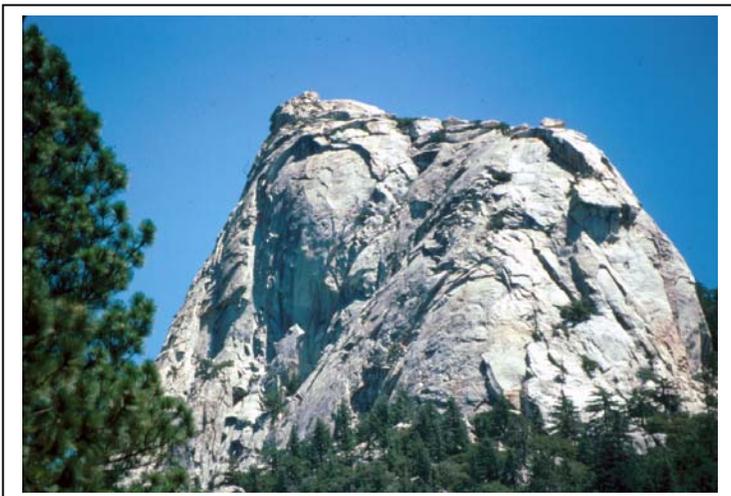


To Palm Desert & Santa Rosa Mtns.

To Highway 74



View from Taquitz Peak



Palms to Pine Scenic Drive

Roadside Pull-offs

Indian Vista is a scenic overlook a few hundred feet from Highway 243, 9.5 miles north of Idyllwild. Interpretive panels explain the role of fire on the landscape.

Alandale Fire Station is a quiet roadside pull-off on Highway 243 with panels describing the wildlife living in the oak trees.

Cahuilla Tewanet is south of Idyllwild along Highway 74. At this scenic overlook, a series of panels describe the culture of the Native Americans. Small signs along a path identify desert plants and how they were used by the Cahuilla.