



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Mojave Trails

National Monument

Desert Safety

- Summer temperatures in the Mojave Desert regularly exceed 110° Fahrenheit.
- Never go alone and always tell someone your plans.
- Take plenty of food and water (one gallon per person per day). Hydrate the day before and the day of your trip.
- Carry a first aid kit, signal mirror, flashlight and matches.
- Take a good map, compass, and GPS device. In the desert, telephone apps may not be reliable.
- Take a cellular phone or personal locator beacon.
- Wear sunscreen and sunglasses and dress to protect your skin. Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothes.
- Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition. Check your tires, spare tire, jack, lug wrench, and fluid levels.
- Always start with a full tank of gas and plan your return before it falls below half a tank.
- Stay with your vehicle if it becomes disabled. Your vehicle is easier to spot than a person walking. If in distress, lift the hood, signal for help using a mirror, make a large X on the ground using newspaper, rocks, or bright material.
- Watch for snakes, spiders, and scorpions among the rocks.

For medical emergencies call 911.

For resource emergencies, please contact the Federal Interagency Communications Center toll free at (888) 233-6518.



Needles Field Office

1303 South Hwy 95
Needles, CA 92363
Phone: (760) 326-7000
www.blm.gov/ca/needles

Directions From

Barstow, CA - Take I-40 east for 45 miles, this is the western boundary of the Monument.

Twentynine Palms, CA - Take Amboy Road for 25 miles, this is the southwestern boundary of the Monument.

Blythe, CA - Take I-10 west for 47 miles, head north on CA-177 for 27 miles, head east on CA-62, this is the southern boundary of the Monument.

Flagstaff, AZ - Take I-40 west for 277 miles, this is the eastern boundary of the Monument.

Organized Groups and Events

A special recreation permit is required 180 days in advance of any organized group or special event.

Leave No Trace

While enjoying your visit, help minimize your impact by staying on designated routes, packing out litter, respecting other visitors and wildlife, and leaving natural and cultural resources as you find them.

You may discover a stack of rocks (called cairns) or a line of stones which may be of cultural significance. Moving rocks or creating your own rock alignments interferes with the BLM's ability to protect culturally significant features. Please do not create your own.

Local Services

Fuel, food and lodging are available in the gateway cities of Barstow, Needles, and Twentynine Palms. Fuel and food are also available in the towns of Ludlow, Fenner, and Amboy.



Map & Guide





Mojave Trails National Monument

Mojave Trails National Monument is a landscape defined by scarcity and shaped by travel. The Monument exemplifies the remarkable ecology of the Mojave Desert and holds a unique human history. A landscape Native Americans have explored since time immemorial and that has been woven into their dynamic cultures to this day.



You can explore areas used for World War II military training. You may cross historic trade routes and trails followed by Spanish explorers, see a transcontinental rail line, and take a drive on the iconic Route 66 highway.

In 2016, the Mojave Trails National Monument was designated through Presidential Proclamation to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant cultural resources. The Monument offers a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and unique sand dunes. The landscape spans 1.6 million acres of public land connecting the Mojave National Preserve to the north and Joshua Tree National Park to the south, ensuring the biological connectivity of this landscape, while preserving traditional uses such as hunting and backcountry exploration.

Mojave Desert

The Mojave Trails National Monument is part of the California Desert Conservation Area, a 25-million-acre landscape the size of Ohio.

This Mojave Desert, which includes much of the Monument, played an important role in American history and contains remnants of more than 10,000 years of human occupation. Native American petroglyphs, historic mines from the 1800s, cattle ranches, and important military training sites can be found throughout the region.

In the 1830s, Spanish explorers sought an overland route between New Mexico and California, and in the 1930s, dust bowl immigrants journeyed west on Route 66 searching for a better life in California.

Driving through the Mojave Desert, you will discover dense communities of natural life. Under the branches of a Creosote shrub, a hidden treasure of flowering forbs and cacti can be found. These plants provide nesting material, food and water for the smaller animal species that exist in this harsh environment. Desert tortoises receive the majority of their water from flowers such as the California bluebell.



Other wildflowers, including the desert marigold, monkey flower and desert mallow, also produce an outstanding array of color for wildflower photographers and naturalists.

Historic Route 66

In 1912, National Old Trails Road was developed and linked Maryland with California. In 1926, it merged with Route 66 in the western states.

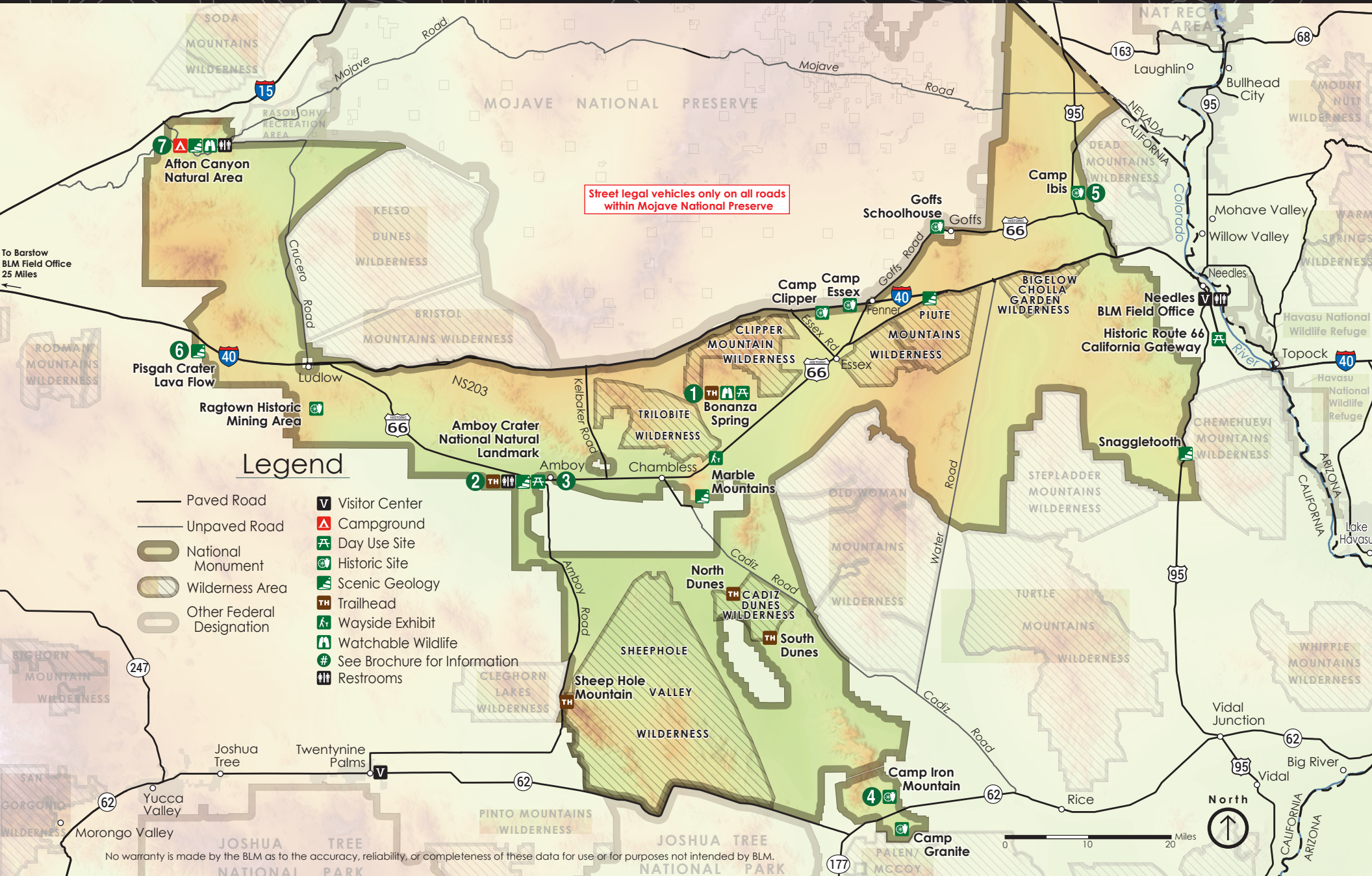
Author John Steinbeck popularized the nickname the “Mother Road” for Route 66 in his 1939 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, “The Grapes of Wrath,” whose characters fled the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma to California along the road. Ten years earlier, travelers coined this term when encountering the 15-foot statue called Madonna of the Trail, a pioneer mother holding a small child in her arms and another at her side. Versions of this statue are located in each of the 12 states along the National Old Trails Road.

Most of the towns along Route 66 started as railroad water stops. At one time, roadside communities in the desert had one-room schoolhouses, train depots, cafes, motels, gas stations, and campgrounds. Route 66 became a very popular vacation route after World War II. In 1946, it was further popularized when Bobby Troup wrote the song “(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66” and later when Hollywood created the television show “Route 66.” Today, very few of the services exist, but the legacy remains.

In 1972, the Mojave Desert portion of Route 66 was bypassed with the opening of Interstate 40. In 1984, the last piece of Route 66, near Williams, Arizona, was bypassed. Today, the pioneering spirit of Route 66 lives on through music, film, and preservation work from clubs, associations, and interested individuals like you!



Mojave Trails National Monument



Street legal vehicles only on all roads within Mojave National Preserve

Legend

- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- National Monument
- Wilderness Area
- Other Federal Designation
- Ⓥ Visitor Center
- Ⓜ Campground
- Ⓜ Day Use Site
- Ⓜ Historic Site
- Ⓜ Scenic Geology
- Ⓜ Trailhead
- Ⓜ Wayside Exhibit
- Ⓜ Watchable Wildlife
- Ⓜ See Brochure for Information
- Ⓜ Restrooms

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The Mojave Road

Originally a Native American trail, it was used as a trade route with California coastal tribes. Military forts of the 1850s were established along the route to protect key water sources and provide assistance for travelers. Today, it is a popular four-wheel drive road.

Mojave Adventure Route System

A network of outstanding backcountry 4x4 vehicle touring routes that follow historic trails, this shared-use trail system provides recreational opportunities for experienced off-road enthusiasts. These routes can be identified by brown trail markers.

1 Bonanza Springs Day Use Area

Provides picnic tables and observation points to view the surrounding landscape. Bird life is abundant within the willows and cattails of the springs and offers some of the best wildlife viewing in the area. A four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended to visit this site. Route NS203 from Route 66 provides the easiest access.

2 Amboy Crater National Natural Landmark

Located in the heart of the Mojave Trails National Monument, it is an excellent example of an open basin, symmetrical volcanic cinder cone. The paved road into the area provides access to a parking lot, restroom facilities and a crater viewpoint. There is a 1.5-mile hiking trail that leads to the top of the crater. Hiking is only recommended in the cooler months (November to April).

3 Town of Amboy

Amboy is the beginning of the ABC railroad siding towns, named by railroad companies in alphabetical order and continues in California to the town of Needles. Route 66 is most famous for the development of motor lodges, or motels with vintage neon lights.



Wilderness Areas

The Monument is home to six Wilderness Areas, the largest of which is Sheephole Valley with 187,000 acres. The wilderness designation ensures their long-term preservation and protection, and they remain undeveloped and unconstrained by human activity to provide a backcountry experience. No mechanized travel is allowed.



WWII Desert Training Center

The Desert Training Center, also known as the California-Arizona Maneuver Area, was created in 1942 under the command of General George S. Patton to train troops for the African, Pacific and European campaigns.

4 Iron Mountain Divisional Camp

Iron Mountain oversaw the conditioning of troops and the testing of military equipment before troops were sent to battle of North Africa. From 1942 to 1944, close to one million U.S. troops conducted large-scale maneuvers throughout the entire area, unlike anything ever seen by the United States prior to World War II.

5 Camp Ibis

Camp Ibis is one of many World War II training camps in the California desert. The harsh conditions of the American deserts were considered similar in nature to North Africa where soldiers were being sent. Adjacent to U.S. Highway 95, a concrete monument marks the entrance to the camp.

Honoring the Desert Training Center

To protect and conserve these public lands as a living memorial where one can learn about this extraordinary chapter in America's history, the use of metal detectors/removal of artifacts is prohibited. All historic sites are protected under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

6 Pisgah Crater Lava Flow

With a variety of volcanic features and intact lava tubes, the Pisgah Crater is a unique destination for geology enthusiasts. Keep in mind, only part of the lava flow is on public land. The volcanic cinder cone has been the site of mining, resulting in the loss of its cinder cone shape.

7 Afton Canyon Natural Area

The surface water at Afton Canyon makes it unique in the southern California desert. Known locally as "The Grand Canyon of the Mojave" for its dramatic geological formations, this is the only place where the Mojave River flows above ground year-round, supporting significant (riverbank) wildlife habitat amid the desert.

Since prehistoric times, the natural bounty created by this water source has made Afton Canyon a focus for living things. Dense willows and cottonwoods shade the river, and thickets of mesquite produce bean pods for food. The ponds, marshes and streams provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

The Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad

This railroad was one of three built to cross the Death Valley region and was able to outlast the others by serving desert residents along the route from 1907 to 1940. While plans called for the railroad to stretch from Tonopah, Nevada, to the tidewater at San Diego, California, it relied on other rail lines to reach those cities.

Camping: Dispersed camping is allowed in disturbed areas. Please leave pristine areas intact and leave the site cleaner than when you found it.

Military Explosives: Live munitions were used in battle simulations - bullets, bombs, mortars, grenades, mines, etc. Unexploded ordinance can be found throughout the desert and can cause serious injury or death.

Please follow the 3 R's: **Recognize** you may have encountered a munition. **Retreat** from the munition. Do not touch, handle, disturb or transport it, and walk out the same way you entered the area. **Report** what you saw and where you saw it by contacting BLM law enforcement through the Federal Interagency Communication Center at (888)-383-5651 or call 911