



	Paved Road		Information
	Dirt Road		Developed Camping
	Trail		Primitive Camping
	Railroad		Picnicking
	Interstate Highway		Drinking Water
	State Highway		Restrooms
	County Highway		Showers
	Trail Number		Hiking
	Palm Grove		Equestrian
	Point of Interest		Vista
	Accessible		Accessible



ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK®  
WILDFLOWER UPDATE 3-17-2017

**A heat wave through the weekend means visitors should wear sun protection and drink lots of water!**

As expected, plentiful rains in December, January AND February have encouraged the development of a spectacular showing of annual plants in the flower fields north of town, along trails in western canyons, and even in the badlands. Roadsides in town are a great place to see fields of Desert Dandelions. A good route to follow is:

1. East on Palm Canyon Drive, continue north on highway S-22.
2. Turn left onto Henderson Canyon Road to visit the sunflower fields.
3. Travel the length of the road west to Borrego Springs Road.
4. Turn left on Borrego Springs Road, which will bring you back into town.

- ① Desert Lily plants are continuing to bloom in many locations, including the badlands. The dirt road to **Arroyo Salado Primitive Camp** is a good place to look for Lilies (beyond the camp area, 4WD is recommended). Notch-leaved Phacelia is another treasure to be found in the badlands this year, but only if you are driving a four-wheel-drive vehicle.
- ② Every day, we are seeing more and more Desert Sunflowers start blooming in the “Flower Fields” along **Henderson Canyon Road**. Look for Sand Verbena, Lupine and Dune Evening Primrose here, also. A variety of flowers can also be found at the western end of the road, near the collection of large metal statues.
- ③ The **Coyote Canyon Road** has been graded again, making it passable to two-wheel-drive vehicles as far as Desert Gardens (**caution:** shoulders are sandy, leaving just a few areas safe for passing and turning around). Bright yellow Parish’s poppies covering the hillsides are delightful! Drivers who don’t want to drive the dirt road should park at the end of the pavement and venture out onto the flats, for Desert Lilies in bloom, Dune Evening Primrose, Lupine, Desert Chicory, and patches of Sand Verbena.
- ④ Poppies, Phacelia, Cryptantha, Chuparosa and Brittlebush have been blooming at the **Visitor Center**, where Desert Dandelions and other annuals make an impressive showing. **\$5 parking**
- ⑤ **Borrego Palm Canyon** is beautiful right now, with Canterbury Bells, Poppies, Monkeyflower, and Phacelia blooming against lots of bright green foliage! Brittlebushes are loaded with buds, and should be bursting with bright yellow flowers any day. Look closely for delicate Whispering Bells and diminutive Little Gold Poppy. **Arrive early (before 8:00 a.m.)**
- ⑥ **Hellhole Canyon** should have similar flowers, and while it is a longer hike, could be an option when the parking lot for Borrego Palm Canyon is full.
- ⑦ Flower-seekers wanting to get away from crowds would do well to explore the southern end of the park. Highway S-2 from Vallecito County Park down to Sweeney Pass and the **Carrizo Badlands Overlook** is beautiful, and primitive camping areas (try Blair Valley or Mountain Palm Springs) and trails will be much less crowded.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in beautiful Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. We remind you that the Park remains a place of beauty, grandeur, and solitude all year long.