



TAKE A HIKE!

in Mojave Desert's California State Parks,
and become a



Mojave Desert Explorer!

Explore these 6 hikes to become an official *Mojave Desert Explorer*. Complete them in any order, and take as long as you'd like. Go on the hikes suggested below for each park, or you can do a longer one if you wish!

When finished, mail this form to: Mojave Desert Explorer, 15701 East Avenue M, Lancaster, CA 93535 to receive your official *Mojave Desert Explorer* Certificate!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Before you begin,
be sure to read the
"BEFORE YOU GO" section
on the next page.



1. **Red Rock Canyon State Park** is famous for its colorful cliffs that have provided scenic locations for many movies. The park is located where the southernmost tip of the Sierra Nevadas converge with the El Paso Range. Each tributary canyon is unique, with dramatic shapes and vivid colors. The short (approximately 1/4 mile) Ricardo Nature Trail begins just south of the visitor center. Take Abbott Road off Highway 14, 25 miles north of Mojave.

www.parks.ca.gov, www.facebook.com/RedRockCanyonStatePark, (661) 839-6553

Date _____ Describe a bird, lizard or plant that you saw:

2. **Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park** is located near the town of Tehachapi. Nestled atop a ridge in the Tehachapi Mountains overlooking Sand Canyon to the east and the Tehachapi valley to the west, Tomo-Kahni, or "Winter Village," was the site of a Kawaiisu (Nüwa) village. Due to the sensitive nature of this place, it is only open to the public by guided tours on Saturdays in the spring or the fall (661-946-6092). The 3-hour tour is a moderately strenuous hike; not recommended for children under 6.

www.parks.ca.gov, (661) 946-6092

If you cannot take the guided park tour, you may visit the **Tehachapi Museum** instead. Learn about the rich culture and history of the Kawaiisu (*Nüwa*) people by visiting the museum's Milano Gallery. Open year round, Friday through Sunday, 12-4 p.m.

Address: 310 South Green St., Tehachapi, CA 93561. Info: www.tehachapimuseum.org.

Date _____ Name three items you saw in the Milano Gallery:



Extra: Were you able to go on the guided tour? _____

3. The **Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve** is well known for springtime wildflowers. But did you know that you can visit the park any time of year? Enjoy a great family hike by following the trail to the west of the visitor center, continuing up the hill .25 mile to the Tehachapi Vista Point. Be on the look out for horned larks and side-blotched lizards. Relax on the benches and take in views of the Tehachapi Mountains to the north and Portal Ridge and the San Gabriel Mountains to the south.



15101 Lancaster Road, 15 miles west of Highway 14 and the city of Lancaster.

Wildflower hotline and visitor center information: (661) 724-1180,

www.facebook.com/PoppyReserve.

Date _____ What trails did you take? _____

Describe any flowers, birds or lizards that you saw:

Recommendation: Hike #4 on the next page is close to the Poppy Reserve)

4. **Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park** is 7 miles west of the Poppy Reserve on Lancaster Road. The park protects an impressive stand of native desert trees and other plants. Learn about California junipers on the easy, 1 mile **Rare Juniper Trail**. The trailhead is located a short distance down the Ripley Nature Trail, just north of the picnic area and information boards.



Just west of 205th Street West on Lancaster Road, look for the pedestrian walk-through entrance on the north side of the road. Park on Lancaster road and follow the dirt path into the park. To download the brochure for the Rare Juniper Trail, visit www.prmdia.org and click on Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland.

Date _____ Name the two ancient trees that the park protects (hint: read the info panels):



5. The **Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park** is a unique and eclectic folk art structure that displays objects created by the American Indian cultures of the western Great Basin, California, and the Southwest. It is built into rock formations and framed by picturesque Piute Butte in the east Antelope Valley. A short nature trail begins in front of the museum; tour the museum first and then ask for the nature trail brochure and enjoy your hike!

The park is open Saturday and Sunday year-round from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 15701 East Avenue M, Lancaster (near Lake Los Angeles). Visit AVIM.parks.ca.gov, www.Facebook.com/AVIndianMuseum or call (661) 946-3055 for more information.

Date _____ Name three items you saw along the nature trail:

6. **Saddleback Butte State Park** is located 3 miles north of the Indian Museum, on 170th Street East between East Avenue J and K. The butte is a granite mountain that towers above the surrounding desert. The park was created in 1960 to protect the butte, and examples of the native Joshua tree woodlands that were once common throughout this high desert area. In the day use area you will find the trailhead for the short Downen Nature Trail loop that winds through the desert landscape.



17102 East Avenue J, Lancaster (near Lake Los Angeles). The visitor center: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The picnic area is open sunrise-sunset, and the campground is open day and night year-round. Information: (661) 946-6092, www.parks.ca.gov, www.Facebook.com/SaddlebackButte

Date _____ Name two plants that you saw on the trail (hint: read the interpretive panel at the beginning of the trail): _____

BEFORE YOU GO!

Hike Safely:

- ⇒ Never hike alone.
- ⇒ **Always** take water, and drink it! Not all parks have drinking water, so be sure to bring your own.
- ⇒ Wear a hat, sunblock and tennis shoes or hiking boots; check the weather and dress accordingly.
- ⇒ Stay on the trails to stay safe! Always look carefully before sitting down or reaching under rocks or plants.
- ⇒ Parents, remember that a healthy snack is always a good reward at the end of a successful family hike, and a simple first aid kit, flashlight and binoculars are handy additions to your daypack.

Find More Information:

Visit www.parks.ca.gov for information about these and all other California State Parks.

Visit the websites for these non-profits that support Mojave Desert State Parks:

Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association www.redrockrcia.org

Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum www.facebook.com/IndianMuseumFriends

Poppy Reserve Mojave Desert Interpretive Association www.prmdia.org

(copies of this activity sheet available on PRMDIA's website)