

SKY'S THE LIMIT

Observatory & Nature Center

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PLANNING YOUR VISIT TO SKY'S THE LIMIT OBSERVATORY AND NATURE CENTER

Sky's The Limit campus is located just outside the 29 Palms entrance to Joshua Tree National Park. This Mojave Desert site, at an elevation of 2800 feet in the Joshua Tree Gateway Communities, experiences harsh conditions and great fluctuations in temperature. Temperatures in summer can be well over 100 during the day and drop as much as 30 degrees at night. Strong winds are common. Be prepared for the unexpected. Weather can change drastically in a matter of minutes. Everything from flash floods (even if it is not raining anywhere near you) to extreme drops in temperature can happen in no time at all in the desert.

Sky's The Limit has restrooms (vault toilets) but no running water. No alcohol, no drugs (including Marijuana), no smoking or vaping, no open fires, and no pets are allowed on the campus. No camping or overnight stays are permitted anywhere on the Observatory and Nature Center property. Shade and seating are limited. Visitors must carry all trash out with them.

Nighttime activities are best when there is very little light to interfere with stargazing and telescope viewing, so the campus is very dark.



Here are some practical tips for a safe and enjoyable visit:

- Bring plenty of water: at least one gallon per person, per day. More is better. Keep reminding each other to drink often.
- Wear appropriate clothing: dress in layers to accommodate changing temperatures.
- Wear good walking shoes with closed toes, or boots and well-fitting socks.
- Protect your head with a hat and your eyes with sunglasses.
- Use sunscreen and be sure it is unscented; if you smell like a flower, desert insects may love you a little too much.
- Stay on the marked trails and concrete pathways; steer clear of cacti and other spiky plants, and you must protect native plants and the desert ecosystem.
- Enjoy desert wildlife from afar; some of the spiders and reptiles are poisonous, tortoise is an endangered species, and all living creatures must be protected from harm.
- Bring food: you may find yourself quite far from any restaurants or stores.
- Bring your own chairs or campstools.
- Bring only flashlights with red lenses; no white, yellow, or green lights. Avoid clothes or shoes with flashing lights.



- Bring the appropriate number of chaperones for the age group visiting; docents are busy explaining programs and activities and cannot watch visitors.
- Visit our website for more information <http://www.skysthelimit29.org>
- Visit our weather station for current conditions <https://skysthelimit29.org/weather-sky/>.

GENERAL ADVICE FOR TRAVELING IN THE DESERT

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Let someone at home know your itinerary and when to expect you to return. If you are delayed or stranded, they'll have some idea of where to start looking for you. If your plans change, be sure to let them know.
- Learn about the area. Visit the Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center or California Welcome Center for maps and other important information.

PACK THE ESSENTIALS

- Carry maps, a compass, and have knowledge of the area prior to your trip; note landmarks as you travel.
- Take along a first aid kit.
- A pocket mirror is a helpful signaling device.
- Carry a cell phone and extra battery. (Note that some areas do not have cell service).

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

- Stay with your vehicle or otherwise make yourself visible.
- Stay put so rescuers have a better chance of finding you.
- Avoid walking during the heat of the day; morning and evening walking is better for conserving your body's moisture.
- Seek shelter from the elements.
- Stay hydrated; don't wait until you are thirsty to sip water.

*If you plan to visit Joshua Tree National Park, download the **[national park app](#)** before you arrive and follow prompts for downloading offline content. There is no cell service in most of the Park, and you'll want to have content available on your phone so it's accessible anywhere in the Park.*