

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

Year	Month	Date	Day	Time	Name	#	Notes
2011	September	11	Sun	9–10:30 AM	FLORIDA CANYON	8	
2011	September	17	Sat	8–10:30 AM	MAST PARK (WEST)	23	
2011	September	18	Sun	4:30–7 PM	WOODED HILL NATURE TRAIL	42	\$P
2011	September	24	Sat	6–7:30 PM	SAN ELIJO LAGOON COUNTY ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE	1	
2011	October	1	Sat	8–9:30 AM	TIJUANA ESTUARY	5	
2011	October	9	Sun	9–11 AM	BATIKUITOS LAGOON	2	
2011	October	16	Sun	4–7:30 PM	STONEWALL PEAK	43	\$P
2011	October	23	Sun	9 AM–1 PM	MOUNT WOODSON	44	
2011	October	30	Sun	9–11 AM	SYCAMORE CANYON COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE	24	
2011	November	5	Sat	9 AM–1 PM	DESCANSO/SWEETWATER RIVER	45	\$P
2011	November	6	Sun	10 AM–3 PM	WEST BUTTE BORREGO MOUNTAIN	58	
2011	November	12	Sat	3–5:30 PM	CARSON’S CROSSING	9	
2011	November	13	Sun	9–10:30 AM	LU ELF POND	25	
2011	November	19	Sat	10–11:30 AM	DOS PICOS COUNTY REGIONAL PARK	26	\$P
2011	November	20	Sun	9 AM–2:30 PM	SPLIT MOUNTAIN (WIND CAVES)	59	
2011	December	2	Fri	5–9 PM	BALBOA PARK DECEMBER NIGHTS	10	W
2011	December	3	Sat	5–9 PM	BALBOA PARK DECEMBER NIGHTS	10	W
2011	December	10	Sat	10 AM–3 PM	CALCITE MINE AND SLOT CANYON	60	
2011	December	17	Sat	1–3 PM	MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK (OAK CANYON)	11	
2011	December	22	Thu	6–7:30 AM	MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK (COWLES MOUNTAIN WINTER SOLSTICE)	12	
2012	January	14	Sat	10 AM–2 PM	GHOST MOUNTAIN	61	
2012	January	15	Sun	10 AM–Noon	BAYSIDE TRAIL	13	\$P

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Year	Month	Date	Day	Time	Name	#	Notes
2012	January	21	Sat	9–10:30 AM or 9 AM–1 PM	LAKE HODGES (NORTH)	27	
2012	January	22	Sun	10 AM–2 PM	MINE CANYON	62	
2012	January	28	Sat	10 AM–2 PM	MOUNTAIN PALM SPRINGS (FIVE GROVES)	63	
2012	February	4	Sat	9 AM–1 PM	RAMONA GRASSLANDS	28	
2012	February	5	Sun	10 AM–2 PM	PINYON WASH	64	
2012	February	11	Sat	9 AM–3:30 PM	INDIAN HILL	65	
2012	February	12	Sun	10 AM–1 PM	DALEY RANCH (BOULDER LOOP)	29	
2012	February	18	Sat	8–11 AM	FORTUNA MOUNTAIN	14	
2012	February	19	Sun	9–10:30 AM	ROSE CANYON OPEN SPACE PARK	15	
2012	February	25	Sat	8–11 AM	LAKE HODGES (EAST ARM)	30	
2012	March	3	Sat	8 AM–Noon	EI MONTE PARK (FLUME TRAIL)	31	
2012	March	4	Sun	10–11:30 AM or 10 AM–12:30 PM	LOUIS A. STELZER COUNTY PARK	32	\$P, W
2012	March	10	Sat	8–10 AM	RUFFIN CANYON OPEN SPACE	16	
2012	March	11	Sun	9 AM–1 PM	McCAIN VALLEY	66	
2012	March	17	Sat	9–11 AM	KATE O. SESSIONS MEMORIAL PARK	17	
2012	March	17	Sat	7–8:30 AM	SANTEE LAKES	33	W
2012	March	18	Sun	10 AM–1:30 PM	WILLIAM HEISE COUNTY PARK	46	\$P
2012	March	24	Sat	8–11 AM	COWLES MOUNTAIN (EAST)	18	
2012	March	25	Sun	9–11 AM	DEL REY CANYON	6	
2012	March	31	Sat	9 AM–1:30 PM	EAGLE ROCK	34	
2012	April	1	Sun	9 AM–1:30 PM	GARNET PEAK	47	\$P
2012	April	7	Sat	8 AM–12:30 PM	IRON MOUNTAIN	35	

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

Year	Month	Date	Day	Time	Name	#	Notes
2012	April	8	Sun	9 AM–2 PM	JUAQUAPIN CREEK LOOP	48	
2012	April	14	Sat	9 AM–2 PM	SANTA MARGARITA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE	36	
2012	April	15	Sun	9–10:30 AM	MANZANITA CANYON	19	
2012	April	15	Sun	9 AM–2 PM	HORSETHIEF CANYON	49	\$P
2012	April	21	Sat	9–10:30 AM	DEL SUR PRIVATE TRAIL	37	
2012	April	21	Sat	10 AM–1 PM	CHARIOT CREEK	50	
2012	April	22	Sun	9 AM–Noon	OAKOASIS COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE	38	
2012	April	28	Sat	8 AM–1 PM	OAKZANITA PEAK	51	
2012	April	29	Sun	9–10:30 AM	PIEDRAS PINTADAS RIDGE	39	
2012	May	5	Sat	9–11 AM	TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE EXTENSION	3	
2012	May	5	Sat	9 AM–1 PM	EAGLE PEAK	52	
2012	May	19	Sat	9 AM–Noon	BOULDER MOUNTAIN ROAD PRIVATE NATURE TRAIL	20	
2012	May	20	Sun	8 AM–Noon	AIRPLANE MONUMENT	53	
2012	May	26	Sat	8 AM–3:30 PM	NOBLE CANYON	54	\$P
2012	May	27	Sun	9–11 AM	BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE	40	
2012	June	2	Sat	8 AM–1:30 PM	AGUA DULCE LOOP	55	\$P
2012	June	2	Sat	8–10 AM	TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK (N. Clairemont Park)	21	
2012	June	3	Sun	10 AM–12:30 PM	SILVERWOOD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	41	
2012	June	9	Sat	9 AM–2 PM	VOLCAN MOUNTAIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE	56	
2012	June	10	Sun	9–11 AM	MANCHESTER HABITAT CONSERVATION AREA	4	
2012	June	16	Sat	9–10:30 AM	OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (WEST)	7	
2012	June	17	Sun	9–10:30 AM	POINT LOMA NATIVE PLANT RESERVE	22	

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

Year	Month	Date	Day	Time	Name	#	Notes
2012	June	23	Sat	8 AM–1 PM	SUNSET TRAIL	57	\$P

\$P = parking fee

W = wheelchair accessible

Parking Fee Information

Parking fees have been instituted or increased at many hike locations. Such information, where available at the time this schedule was prepared, has been included. Please check location websites or the phone numbers listed below for parking fee information as they are subject to change.

County of San Diego

A \$40 annual parking pass waives the \$3 parking fee (per vehicle) in all San Diego County Regional Day-use Parks. Seniors (62+) and disabled persons park free. Passes may be purchased at the County Parks and Recreation Office: 5500 Overland Ave., Suite P, San Diego, CA 92123. The office is open Monday–Friday, 8 AM–5 PM. You may purchase over the phone with a credit card by calling 858.565.3600. You may also purchase at all county parks.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Generally, there is no day-use parking fee in Anza Borrego Desert State Park with the exception of the Borrego Palm Canyon Campground (\$8). There is also an overnight camping fee at this campground. For information call 760.767.5311.

Cleveland National Forest

California national forests, including Cleveland National Forest, require visitors to display a National Forest Adventure Pass in their vehicles when parked in a national forest for recreational purposes, including at trailheads in high use areas. A \$5 daily pass, or a \$30 annual pass valid for 12 months from month of purchase, is available at Forest Services offices and ranger stations, Adventure 16 and REI stores, and vendors within the forest. For information call the Descanso District, 619.445.6235, or the Palomar District, 760.788.0250, or visit www.fsadventurepass.org.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

A parking fee of \$8 is in effect for Paso Picacho and Green Valley Falls campgrounds. A \$125 annual pass is valid for state parks. Parking is free in “turn-out” sites where not prohibited. For information call 760.765.3020 or visit www.parks.ca.gov.

Legend for Hike Difficulty

E= Easy

I = Intermediate

D = Difficult

X = Extra boulder-scrambling, rough trail, low light, etc.)

Number is mileage rounded out to nearest whole number,

Elevation change (gain or loss)

A = up to 200 ft

B = up to 500 ft

C = up to 1000 ft

D = up to 1500 ft

E = greater than 1500 ft

Using the system above, Noble Canyon is D8E (difficult 8-mile hike with elevation change greater than 1500 ft). Maidenhair Falls is IX5C for boulder scrambling.

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

Descriptions and Directions by Region

Map references are based on the 2007 *Thomas Guide* (map page-section). Other editions may be similar.

Driving times are estimated from Balboa Park. Hikes are rated by difficulty and distance; the code is explained on Page 2.

Parking fees listed on Page 3 are subject to change.

NORTH COAST

1. SAN ELIJO LAGOON COUNTY ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE E2A

Saturday, September 24, 2011; 6–7:30 PM

The preserve has more than 250 shore and water birds in multiple plant communities that include marsh, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral.

(Solana Beach) From I-5 exit west on Lomas Santa Fe Dr. Turn right (north) onto Rios Ave. Go to the end of the road and park. No facilities. (Map 1167-E6)

2. BATIQUITOS LAGOON New! E3A

Sunday, October 9, 2011; 9–11 AM

A pleasant walk on level terrain provides ample opportunity to enjoy lagoon plants and shorebirds. Along the way is a native plant garden.

(Carlsbad) From I-5 exit east on Poinsettia Lane. Turn right onto Batiquitos Dr., with another right on Gabbiano Lane. Park at the end of the road. No facilities. (Map 1127-A7)

3. TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE EXTENSION I2A

Saturday, May 5, 2012; 9–11 AM

See rare Torrey pines, native chaparral, and wildflowers on this easy walk to a vista point overlooking Peñasquitos Lagoon and the ocean.

(Del Mar) From I-5 exit west on Carmel Valley Rd. Turn right (north) onto Del Mar Scenic Pkwy. Go to the end of the road and park. No facilities. (Map 1207-H1)

4. MANCHESTER HABITAT CONSERVATION AREA New! E4B

Sunday, June 10, 2012; 9–11 AM

Several threatened or endangered species, such as San Diego Thornmint, occur in this protected area.

*(Encinitas) From I-5 exit east on Manchester Ave. Turn right at Calle Ryan and go to the end of the road. **No facilities.** (Map 1167-G2)*

SOUTH BAY

5. TIJUANA ESTUARY E2A

Saturday, October 1, 2011; 8–9:30 AM

Revel in one of the few remaining salt marshes in southern California. Endangered bird species, including the Clapper Rail, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, and the California Least Tern may be seen.

(Imperial Beach) From I-5 exit west on Coronado Ave. (Coronado Ave. becomes Imperial Beach Ave.). Turn left (south) on 5th St. Go to Iris Ave. and park. Restrooms and water are available at the Tijuana Estuary Interpretive Center, 301 Caspian Way. (Map 1349-F1)

6. DEL REY CANYON New! E4A

Sunday, March 25, 2012; 9–11 AM

This easy walk offers the opportunity to see a variety of chaparral and riparian plants.

(Chula Vista) From I-805 exit east on East H St. Turn right (south) onto Paseo Ranchero then right (west) on Camino Del Rey to meet the Canyoneer host at the trailhead. (Map 1311-A7)

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

SOUTH BAY (Continued)

7. OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (WEST)

E2A

Saturday, June 16, 2012; 9–10:30 AM

Riparian plants can be viewed while walking west on this recently completed trail along the Otay River.

(Chula Vista) From I-5 turn left (east) on Main St. Turn right (south) at Broadway/Beyer Blvd. Use the parking lot on the right. Restroom and water. (Map 1330-C6)

SAN DIEGO CENTRAL

8. FLORIDA CANYON

E2A

Sunday, September 11, 2011; 9–10:30 AM

Enjoy this canyon preserved by Helen Witham Chamlee. Together with Docents of the San Diego Natural History Museum, Chamlee founded the Canyoneers in 1973.

(Balboa Park) From Park Blvd. take Morley Field Dr. east, crossing Florida Dr. At the top of the hill, turn right twice into the parking lot next to the lawn. Snack stand and facilities at tennis courts. (Map 1269-C7)

9. CARSON'S CROSSING

E3A

Saturday, November 12, 2011; 3–5:30 PM

We cross Los Peñasquitos Creek twice on this loop hike that passes through grasslands and riparian habitat. Watch for deer and rabbits on this generally level hike.

(Rancho Peñasquitos) From I-15 exit west on Mercy Rd. Turn right (north) on Black Mountain Rd. then left (west) at Park Village Rd. and left (south) at Camino Ruiz. Park along the street near the kiosk. No facilities. (Map 1189-A7)

10. BALBOA PARK DECEMBER NIGHTS

E1A

Friday, December 2, 2011; 5–9 PM

Saturday, December 3, 2011; 5–9 PM

In this annual event, Canyoneers will be selling locally gathered mistletoe to benefit the San Diego Natural History Museum.

(Balboa Park) The Museum is located south of the zoo at Park Blvd. and Village Pl. Wheelchair accessible. (Map 1269-C7). Check www.balboapark.org/decemberevents for parking information.

11. MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK (OAK CANYON)

E4B

Saturday, December 17, 2011; 1–3 PM

The walk starts past the Old Mission Dam and follows a streambed rimmed by coast live oaks.

(San Diego, Mission Trails Regional Park) From I-8 exit north on Mission Gorge Rd. Turn left onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. Continue on the road for 1.8 miles to the parking lot at the dam, or park along the road nearby. Alternate route: From Santee, take Mission Gorge Rd. west and turn right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail to the dam's parking lot. Water and chemical toilet. (Map 1230-F6)

12. MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK (COWLES MOUNTAIN WINTER SOLSTICE)

DX3C

Thursday, December 22, 2011; 6–7:30 AM

Ascend Cowles Mountain in near-darkness to watch the sun rise on the first day of winter at a Kumeyaay solstice observatory, about halfway up the mountain.

(San Carlos, Mission Trails Regional Park) From I-8 exit north on College Ave. then turn right (east) onto Navajo Rd. Drive 2.5 miles to Golfcrest Dr. Turn left on Golfcrest Dr. and park. Meet near the northeast corner of Golfcrest Dr. and Navajo Rd. Restroom and water. (Map 1250-F4)

13. BAYSIDE TRAIL

I2B

Sunday, January 15, 2012; 10 AM–Noon

Encounter windswept vegetation and chaparral scrub forests on cliffs overlooking San Diego harbor on this round-trip hike. Remnants of WWII defense installations are visible. The return walk at your own pace is all uphill.

(Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument) From I-8 exit on Rosecrans St. Turn right on Cañon St. and continue 1 mile to the traffic signal at Catalina Blvd. Turn left (south) and follow the road to Cabrillo National Monument and park. Meet at the lighthouse (sidewalk). Parking is \$6. Snacks, water, and restrooms are available at the Visitor's Center. (Map 1308-A2)

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SAN DIEGO CENTRAL (continued)

14. FORTUNA MOUNTAIN

D5D

Saturday, February 18, 2012; 8–11 AM

From this high vantage point, enjoy a surprising variety of wildflowers and view an area that once contained ancient beaches.

(Tierrasanta, Mission Trails Regional Park) From I-15 exit east on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Turn left at Via Valarta, then right on Collegio Dr., and then left on Alejo St. Turn left on Belardo Dr., then right on Camino Playa Catalina, and left on Corte Playa Catalina. Park on the right side of the street. No facilities. (Map 1230-A7)

15. ROSE CANYON OPEN SPACE PARK

E4A

Sunday, February 19, 2012; 9–10:30 AM

Watch for hawks soaring above Rose Creek in this 275-acre oasis along the old Santa Fe Railroad roadbed. Volunteers have planted a native garden near the trailhead.

(University City) From Hwy. 52 or from Clairemont Mesa Blvd., take Genesee Ave. north to Decoro St. Park, located on Decoro St. and the west side of Genesee Ave. Walk south on Genesee back to the trailhead to meet the Canyoneer host. No facilities. (Map 1228-D4)

16. RUFFIN CANYON OPEN SPACE New!

I3C

Saturday, March 10, 2012; 8–10 AM

Please join us on this rocky trail through a stream-bed lined with native plants.

(San Diego) From I-15 exit west on Aero Dr. then go south on Ruffin Rd. Cross Gramercy Dr. and meet the Canyoneer host at the east side of Taft Middle School. No facilities. (Map 1249-E5)

17. KATE O. SESSIONS MEMORIAL PARK

IX2A

Saturday, March 17, 2012; 9–11 AM

Enjoy one of the most beautiful spots in San Diego, overlooking Mission Bay, and explore its natural charm on a sometimes-rough trail in a scrub-covered section of the park.

(Pacific Beach) From I-5 exit west on Garnet Ave. then turn right (north) onto Lamont St. Turn right on Park Dr. into the parking lot. Meet near the playground. Restrooms and water. (Map 1248-A4)

18. COWLES MOUNTAIN (EAST)

I3C

Saturday, March 24, 2012; 8–11 AM

This hike offers a different perspective by taking the eastern approach to the top of Cowles Mountain (an elevation gain of 1,000 feet).

(San Carlos, Mission Trails Regional Park) From I-8 exit north on College Ave. then turn right (east) onto Navajo Rd. Turn left (north) on Cowles Mountain Blvd. and follow it 0.4 miles to Boulder Lake Ave. then turn left. Go one block to Barker Way; turn right and park on the street. Meet at the kiosk. No facilities. (Map 1250-H3)

19. MANZANITA CANYON New!

E2A

Sunday, April 15, 2012; 9–10:30 AM

We start from the Azalea Park recreation center and ascend into Manzanita Canyon's riparian and chaparral habitats.

(City Heights) From south I-805 exit left (east) on Home Ave., then turn left onto Fairmount Ave. Go southwest on Poplar St. and northwest on Snowdrop St., which becomes Manzanita Drive. (Map 1269-G7)

20. BOULDER MOUNTAIN ROAD PRIVATE NATURE TRAIL

E4A

Saturday, May 19, 2012; 9 AM–Noon

The owner of this private property has given the Canyoneers special permission to lead a hike on this date only. Please join us at this Poway location with exceptional varieties of native plants.

(Poway) From I-15 exit east on Rancho Bernardo Rd., which becomes Espola Rd. (S5). Make right turns on Martincoit and Orchard Gate, then left on Lime Grove. Right on Arroyo Vista Rd., then left on Boulder Mountain Rd. and meet the Canyoneer host. Do not be late, as we will have limited access through the gate. (Map 1170-E5)

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SAN DIEGO CENTRAL (continued)

21. TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK (N. Clairemont Park) I4C

Saturday, June 2, 2012; 8–10 AM

Our trail takes us through Tecolote Canyon from Chateau Dr. to Balboa Ave. on an easy walk of about 3 miles. Tecolote Creek provides a riparian habitat. There are many old coast live oaks here.

(Clairemont) From I-805 exit west on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. Turn left at Genesee Ave. and right on Bannock Ave.

Alternate route: from I-5 take Hwy. 52 east to Genesee Ave. Go south on Genesee and turn right on Bannock Ave. Restroom and water at recreation center. (Map 1248-F1)

22. POINT LOMA NATIVE PLANT RESERVE New! E1A

Sunday, June 17, 2012; 9–10:30 AM

Join us for a short walk to look at native plants, interspersed with some rare species, in this reserve overlooking Nimitz Blvd.

(Point Loma) From I-8 turn left onto Sunset Cliffs Blvd., then left on W. Point Loma Blvd. and right on Greene St. Turn left on Soto St. and meet the Canyoneer host in Collier Park. (Map 1268-A6)

INLAND

23. MAST PARK (WEST) New! E4A

Saturday, September 17, 2011; 8–10:30 AM

We will pass a pond where there is evidence of re-vegetation and continue walking between the San Diego River and a golf course before turning back short of Hwy. 52.

(Santee) From Hwy. 163 exit east onto Hwy. 52. Exit left (east) onto Mission Gorge Rd. Then turn left (north) on Carlton Hills Blvd. Parking is to the right just beyond the San Diego River. Restrooms and water. (Map 1230-B6)

24. SYCAMORE CANYON COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE E2B

Sunday, October 30, 2011; 9–11 AM

This 321-acre preserve, located in a valley framed by hills, provides a home for deer, bobcats, and golden eagles.

(Poway/Santee) From I-15 exit east on Poway Rd. After 5 miles, go right on Garden Rd. Turn right on Sycamore Canyon Rd. and drive for 2.3 miles until you reach the parking lot. No facilities. (Map 1191-C6)

25. LUELF POND New! I3B

Sunday, November 13, 2011; 9–10:30 AM

Trail runs through a riparian area and oak forest before climbing a steep chaparral-covered hill to a viewpoint.

(Ramona) From Hwy. 67 turn south on Dye Rd. Go right on Southern Oak Road and right on Willow Oak Dr., which becomes Duck Pond Lane. LueLF Pond Open Space Preserve is on the left. Allow 1 hour driving time. No facilities. (Map 1172-D5)

26. DOS PICOS COUNTY REGIONAL PARK E2A

Saturday, November 19, 2011; 10–11:30 AM

Wind through chaparral on a nature trail leading to a freshwater pond.

(Ramona) From I-8 take Hwy. 67 north. (Alternate route: from I-15 take Scripps Poway Pkwy. east and then head north on Hwy. 67). Before entering Ramona, turn right on Mussey Grade Rd., then bear right at Dos Picos Park Rd. into the park. Restrooms and water. Parking fee is \$2. (Map 1171-H5)

27. LAKE HODGES (NORTH) E3A or I6C

Saturday, January 21, 2012; 9–10:30 AM or 9 AM–1 PM

We will lead two hikes here today, depending on public interest. Bring your binoculars. On Hike 1 we will view birds as we cross the new foot bridge over the lake and then explore Felicita Creek. On Hike 2 we will cross the foot bridge and then climb Bernardo Mtn. for a panoramic view of the lake with possible views to the ocean.

(Rancho Bernardo) Take I-15 to the West Bernardo Dr./Pomerado Rd. exit. Turn left onto West Bernardo Dr. Within a half mile, there is a turnoff into a dirt parking lot on the right. Meet at the signed Bernardo Bay Natural Area. No facilities. (Map 1150-A5)

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

INLAND (continued)

28. RAMONA GRASSLANDS *New!* E5A

Saturday, February 4, 2012; 9 AM–1 PM

A pond and wildflowers are highlights of this 5-mile walk in grasslands that continues on through sage scrub and chaparral habitats.

(Ramona) From I-8 go north on Hwy. 67. Turn left (north) on Archie Moore Rd. Go east on Highland Valley Road. Meet the Canyoneer host at the signed location. (Map 1151-H7)

29. DALEY RANCH (BOULDER LOOP) I4C

Sunday, February 12, 2012; 10 AM–1 PM

Daley Ranch has several habitats that support a variety of plant and animal species. Enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding area along the trails.

(Escondido) From I-15 exit east on El Norte Pkwy. Turn left (north) on La Honda Dr. Parking area for Daley Ranch is on the left. To the right is Dixon Lake with restrooms, water, and picnic areas. (Map 1110-C3)

30. LAKE HODGES (EAST ARM) E4A

Saturday, February 25, 2012; 8–11 AM

Hike through varied terrain, pass a waterfall, and learn about Native American use of plants in this area rich in Kumeyaay history.

(Rancho Bernardo) Take I-15 to the West Bernardo Dr./Pomerado Rd. exit. Turn left onto West Bernardo Dr. Within a half mile, there is a turnoff into a dirt parking lot on the right. Meet at the signed Bernardo Bay Natural Area. No facilities. (Map 1150-A5)

31. EL MONTE PARK (FLUME TRAIL) *New!* D4D

Saturday, March 3, 2012; 8 AM–Noon

Trail follows switchbacks through chaparral and sage scrub to reach area where a flume was built to carry water from El Capitan Reservoir to downtown San Diego.

(Lakeside) From I-8 exit north on Lake Jennings Rd., and turn right on El Monte Rd. Meet the Canyoneer host at parking lot before park entrance. (Map 1213-A6)

32. LOUIS A. STELZER COUNTY PARK E3A

Sunday, March 4, 2012; 10–11:30 AM or 10 AM–12:30 PM

Wild grape vines drape trees along oak-lined Wildcat Creek where our short walk takes place. The longer hike heads for the canyon ridge trail, gradually climbing to grassy slopes to view wildflowers.

(Lakeside) From Hwy. 67 go east on Maplevue St. Turn left (north) on Ashwood St., which turns into Wildcat Canyon Rd. Follow it to park entrance on the right. Restrooms, water, picnic area, and playground are available. Wheelchair accessible. Parking fee is \$3. Allow 1 hour driving time. (Map 1212-D7)

33. SANTEE LAKES *New!* E2A

Saturday, March 17, 2012; 7–8:30 AM

A focus on birds during this early morning walk includes coots, grebes, white pelicans, double-crested cormorants, and reintroduced wood ducks.

(Santee) From Hwy. 52 exit east on Mast Blvd. Turn right (south) onto Fanita Pkwy. Meet the Canyoneer host at the gate. No facilities. (Map 1231-A5)

34. EAGLE ROCK *New!* I7D

Saturday, March 31, 2012; 9 AM–1:30 PM

We will hike a section of the Pacific Crest Trail to reach a formation known as Eagle Rock. The first two miles pass through oaks continuing to sparse chaparral and grassland.

(Warner Springs) From Hwy. 67 continue east on Hwy. 78 through Ramona. At Santa Ysabel, turn left (north) on Hwy. 79 for 14 miles. Meet the Canyoneer host near the Warner Springs Fire Station. No facilities. (Map 409-K8)

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

INLAND (continued)

35. IRON MOUNTAIN

I7D

Saturday, April 7, 2012; 8 AM–12:30 PM

A steady uphill climb takes you through exceptional native vegetation. At the summit trail junction, choose to turn around or continue to the summit for a magnificent view of the mountains and valleys.

(Poway) From Hwy. 67 exit east into the Iron Mountain parking lot at Poway Rd. Bring adequate water and food. Allow 40 minutes driving time. Chemical toilet and water. (Map 1191-D1)

36. SANTA MARGARITA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

I7D

Saturday, April 14, 2012; 9 AM–2 PM

Canyoneers have permission to guide at this SDSU field station for this date only. This hike has it all: varied plants along Stone Creek and the Santa Margarita River at the bottom of the gorge with steep areas in open chaparral.

(Fallbrook) From I-15 exit west on Mission Rd. (S13) and turn right onto Willow Glen Rd. Drive to the end of Willow Glen and continue right (north) on Stage Coach Lane. The gate to the reserve will be open a half-hour before the hike. Follow the Canyoneer sign to the parking area. No facilities. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. (Map 998-C3)

37. DEL SUR PRIVATE TRAIL

New!

E2A

Saturday, April 21, 2012; 9–10:30 AM

Native plants include Cleveland sage along this loop trail that passes through riparian habitat in the heart of the Del Sur community, west of Rancho Bernardo.

(Del Sur) From I-15 exit left (west) on Camino Del Norte, continuing on Camino Del Sur (same road). Turn left (east) on Paseo Del Sur and park. (Map 1169-B4)

38. OAKOASIS COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

I3B

Sunday, April 22, 2012; 9 AM–Noon

This trail, lined with wild lilac, passes through thick chaparral on a gentle upward slope. Take a short climb to a promontory overlooking San Vicente Reservoir where you will stop to have a snack before beginning the return trip.

(Lakeside) From Hwy. 67 exit east on Maplevue St. and then turn left (north) onto Ashwood St., which becomes Wildcat Canyon Rd. The preserve is on the left (west) at 12620 Wildcat Canyon Rd., about 2.5 miles past Stelzer Park. Allow 1 hour driving time. Chemical toilets. (Map 1212-F3)

39. PIEDRAS PINTADAS RIDGE

E4B

Sunday, April 29, 2012; 9–10:30 AM

Waterfalls and spring wildflowers are the highlights of this easy walk on a ridge overlooking Lake Hodges.

(Rancho Bernardo) From I-15 exit west on Rancho Bernardo Rd. Turn right (north) at West Bernardo Dr. then left on Poblado Rd. Go 1 mile and park on the street. Meet at the entrance to the walkway between Moon Song Ct. and Smoke Signal Dr. No facilities. (Map 1149-H7)

40. BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

E3A

Sunday, May 27, 2012; 9–11 AM

This easy walk just north of Lake Poway passes by several streams and a woodland canyon of large oaks. The tracks of wild animals, including coyotes, mountain lions, and bobcats, attest to the habitats protected by the reserve.

(Poway) From I-15 exit east on Rancho Bernardo Rd., which becomes Espola Rd. (S5). The entrance to the reserve is at Espola Rd. and Green Valley Truck Trail. Park in the lot near the Reserve gate. Chemical toilet. (Map 1170-G3)

41. SILVERWOOD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

E2A

Sunday, June 3, 2012; 10 AM–12:30 PM

This oak-dotted Audubon Society preserve contains wildflowers in season and higher-elevation chaparral growth. We will be able to observe plant regeneration after the 2003 Cedar fire.

(Lakeside) From Hwy. 67 exit east on Maplevue St. then turn left (north) onto Ashwood St., which changes to Wildcat Canyon Rd. Drive 5 miles. Silverwood is on the right just beyond Oak Oasis. Chemical toilet. (Map 1212-F2)

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

MOUNTAIN

42. WOODED HILL NATURE TRAIL

E2B

Sunday, September 18, 2011; 4:30–7 PM

Easy 1.5-mile walk on a gradual slope through oak-pine woodland leads to a panoramic view.

(Cleveland National Forest) From I-8 exit north on Sunrise Hwy. (S1) and go 8.3 miles to Wooded Hill Rd. Turn left and drive about 0.25 miles. Park on the left near the trail head. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430-B4)

43. STONEWALL PEAK

I5C

Sunday, October 16, 2011; 4–7:30 PM

Follow this switchback trail to granitic Stonewall Peak, elevation 5,730 ft. Enjoy views of Cuyamaca Reservoir and nearby peaks of the Cuyamaca Mountains.

(Cuyamaca Rancho State Park) From I-8 exit north on Hwy. 79. Drive about 12 miles and meet across the road from the entrance to Paso Picacho Campground. Restrooms. Parking fee is \$8. (Map 1176-E2)

44. MOUNT WOODSON I6D

Sunday, October 23, 2011; 9 AM–1 PM

This is a steady uphill climb (1,200-ft. elevation gain) on a maintenance road to the antenna farm atop Mt. Woodson (about 3.5 miles). Visit “potato chip rock” and stop for a snack at the summit before returning at your own pace.

(Poway) From I-15, take either Poway Rd. (S4) or Scripps-Poway Parkway east to Hwy. 67. Go north about 3 or 4.5 miles respectively to Mt. Woodson. Alternate route: From I-8 east, take Hwy. 67 north to Mt. Woodson. Park on the shoulder of Hwy. 67, avoiding the Forest Service fire station, or park on the road off to the right of Hwy 67. (Note: Use extreme caution when crossing Hwy. 67 on foot.) No facilities. Allow 1 hour driving time. (Map 1171-F4)

45. DESCANSO/SWEETWATER RIVER

E4B

Saturday, November 5, 2011; 9 AM–1 PM

We’ll explore an easy trail in the southern corner of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, going through chaparral and streamside areas.

(Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Descanso) From I-8 take Hwy. 79 (Japatul Valley Rd.) north to Riverside Dr. and turn left. Continue past the Perkins Store as Riverside Dr. becomes Viejas Blvd. (not Viejas Grade). Proceed just past Descanso Elementary School and park on the north side of the road. Parking fee is \$8. (Map 1236-A2)

46. WILLIAM HEISE COUNTY PARK

I5C

Sunday, March 18, 2012; 10 AM–1:30 PM

Forests of oak, pine, and cedar are found in this 929-acre park that is one of the few county-run parks to have snowfall each year. Be prepared for temperature changes.

(Julian) From the junction of Hwy. 79 & Pine Hills Road (1 mile west of Julian), turn south on Pine Hills Rd. Go east on Frisius Rd. Parking fee is \$8. Restrooms and water. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. (Map 1156-D5)

47. GARNET PEAK

I3B

Sunday, April 1, 2012; 9 AM–1:30 PM

Garnet Peak offers dramatic views of the desert and the Laguna Mountain Range. On a clear day, the eastern view may include the Salton Sea. This trail takes us through Jeffrey pines to high chaparral.

(Cleveland National Forest) From I-8 take Sunrise Hwy (S1) north. Drive 13.5 miles to the Penny Pines turnout near Mile Marker 27 and park. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park. No facilities. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. (Map 121-A2)

48. JUAQUAPIN CREEK LOOP

I6C

Sunday, April 8, 2012; 9 AM–2 PM

Walk along a beautiful, shaded creek to a lunch stop near morteros.

(Cuyamaca Rancho State Park) From I-8 exit north onto Hwy. 79. Continue to the large parking area on the right, just before Sweetwater Bridge, 1/2 mile past the Green Valley Falls Campground. No facilities. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. (Map 1216-F2)

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

MOUNTAIN (continued)

49. HORSETHIEF CANYON

I3B

Sunday, April 15, 2012; 9 AM–2 PM

Take a 400-foot descent to the canyon floor. A flat trail to Pine Valley Creek will lead you through live oaks, sycamores, and wildflowers.

(Cleveland National Forest, Pine Creek Wilderness Area) From I-8 east, exit south on Japatal Valley Rd. to Lyons Valley Rd. Follow it to the trailhead at Mile Marker 16.4. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park. (Please refer to Parking Fee Information on the calendar page.). Allow 1.5 hours driving time. No facilities. (Map 1275-D2)

50. CHARIOT CREEK

EX4B

Saturday, April 21, 2012; 10 AM–1 PM

The owner of this private property has given the Canyoneers special permission to lead a hike in this historically interesting place. The walk follows a wash to a waterfall with signs of mines along the way.

(Banner Grade) From Julian, go east on Hwy. 78 about 1 mile to Banner Rd. Take Banner Rd. (Hwy. 78) about 6.5 miles. Turn right at the Canyoneer sign. Drive in and park along the road or as directed. No facilities. (Map 1156-G1)

51. OAKZANITA PEAK

I5D

Saturday, April 28, 2012; 8 AM–1 PM

Scarlet larkspur and Indian pinks brighten this walk. A short hike will involve a moderate loop. A longer, more challenging hike will go to Oakzanita Peak (about 7 miles round trip) with a spectacular view at the top.

(Cuyamaca Rancho State Park) From I-8 exit north on Hwy. 79 to just past Oakzanita Campground. As you enter Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, park in the dirt lot immediately to the right after the sign. No facilities. Allow 1 hour driving time. (Map 1216-F5)

52. EAGLE PEAK New!

I4D

Saturday, May 5, 2012; 9 AM–1 PM

The trail has panoramic views of Three Sisters Waterfalls. Near Eagle Peak, the view extends to the ocean.

(Descanso) From I-8 exit north on Hwy. 79 and then go left (west) on Riverside Dr. Turn left on Viejas Grade then make an immediate right past the store onto Oak Grove Dr. Turn right on Boulder Creek Rd. and drive 13 miles (it becomes a well-kept dirt road) to a hairpin turn that intersects Cedar Creek Rd. and the trailhead. No facilities. (Map 1175-B6)

53. AIRPLANE MONUMENT

New!

I5C

Sunday, May 20, 2012; 8 AM–Noon

There are scenic views along the trail to the monument, a 12-cylinder engine mounted in stone to mark the 1922 crash site of Lt. Col F.C. Marshal and 1st Lt. C. L.Weber.

(Cuyamaca Rancho State Park) From I-8 exit north onto Hwy. 79. Continue to the large parking area on the right, just before Sweetwater Bridge, 1/2 mile past the Green Valley Falls Campground. No facilities. Allow 1 hour driving time. (Map 1216-F2)

54. NOBLE CANYON

D8E

Saturday, May 26, 2012; 8 AM–3:30 PM

Enjoy this rugged, beautiful canyon in the Laguna Mountains, cut by a stream that takes us through a stand of California bay-laurel trees. View wild orchids, penstemons, and woolly bluecurls. Bring plenty of water as half the hike to Pine Valley passes through open chaparral. Guides will shuttle drivers back to the trailhead as needed.

(Cleveland National Forest) From I-8 exit Pine Valley Rd. going north. Turn west on Old Hwy 80. Turn north directly past bridge at Pine Creek Rd. keeping to the left. Park in the Noble Canyon parking lot near the restrooms. We will consolidate into 4WD or high-clearance vehicles to reach the trailhead. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park. Restrooms. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. (Map 1237-C3)

55. AGUA DULCE LOOP

I6C

Saturday, June 2, 2012; 8 AM–1:30 PM

This walk starts on the Old County Road then continues along the Agua Dulce Creek to Laguna Meadow. There is a variety of unusual plants to be found on this loop.

(Cleveland National Forest) From I-8 exit north on Sunrise Hwy (S1). Park at Mile Marker 19.1 near the Meadows Information Station. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park. No facilities. Allow 1 hour driving time. (Map 430-B4)

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

MOUNTAIN (continued)

56. VOLCAN MOUNTAIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE D5C

Saturday, June 9, 2012; 9 AM–2 PM

This 2,195-acre preserve offers an array of seasonal wildflowers in oak-pine woodland. We walk to Volcan Peak for a lunch stop and a grand view of the area.

(Julian) From Julian take Main St. north out of town for about 2.2 miles (Main St. becomes Farmer Rd.). Turn right on Wynola Rd. for about 100 yards and then take the first left, which is a continuation of Farmer Rd. The preserve entrance is on the right. Park on the shoulder of the road. No facilities. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. (Map 1136-B3)

57. SUNSET TRAIL

E4B

Saturday, June 23, 2012; 8 AM–1 PM

This loop winds through the Laguna meadows, then behind the mountains, on the Sunset Trail for some spectacular views. (Cleveland National Forest) *From I-8 exit north on Sunrise Hwy. (S1). Drive 13.5 miles to the Penny Pines turnout near mile marker 27.3 and park. No facilities. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park. No facilities. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. (Map 1218-C4)*

DESERT

58. WEST BUTTE BORREGO MOUNTAIN

D4B

Sunday, November 6, 2011; 10 AM–3 PM

The trail is a very steep downhill, then a slight uphill through a slot canyon to an area that, when in season, has spectacular wildflower displays. We will explore the main slot plus side canyons.

(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 exit on Hwy. 79 through Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to Julian. Turn right on Hwy. 78, meeting the Canyoneer host at the Yaqui Pass Junction (Hwy 78/S3). We will consolidate into 4WD or high-clearance vehicles to reach the trailhead. No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 410-C10)

59. SPLIT MOUNTAIN WIND CAVES New!

I7B

Sunday, November 20, 2011; 9 AM–2:30 PM

On this geology walk, we will observe fault lines and then continue through Split Mountain to the wind caves.

(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 exit north on Hwy. 79 through Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to Julian. Turn right on Hwy. 78 to Ocotillo Wells. Turn south onto Split Mountain Rd. Meet the Canyoneer host at turnoff to Gypsum mine. No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 410-F11)

60. CALCITE MINE AND SLOT CANYON

I4C

Saturday, December 10, 2011; 10 AM–3 PM

This 4-mile walk passes through a slot canyon with narrow upper reaches to an area where optical-quality calcite was mined during World War II.

(Borrego Springs) From I-8 exit north on Hwy. 67 to Ramona. From there take Hwy. 78 east. Go left on Hwy. 79. Turn right at San Felipe Rd./San Felipe Valley Rd. (S2) then left at Montezuma Valley Rd. (S22). Turn right at Palm Canyon Dr. and park at Christmas Circle in Borrego Springs to meet the Canyoneer host. We will consolidate into 4WD or high-clearance vehicles to reach the trailhead. Facilities available at Christmas Circle. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 1078-J2. See page 1058.)

61. GHOST MOUNTAIN

I2B

Saturday, January 14, 2012; 10 AM–2 PM

Marshal South and his wife built a house atop Ghost Mountain and lived there with their three children during the 1930s and '40s. View the ruins of their adobe home and the cisterns that captured their water supply. A panoramic view of the desert is an added plus.

(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 exit north on Hwy. 79 through Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to Julian. Turn east on Hwy. 78 and proceed to the junction of Hwy. 78 and S2 (Scissors Crossing). Turn south on S2. Go about 6 miles to the signed entrance to Blair Valley on the east side of the road. Follow the dirt road around the east side of Blair Valley for 2.7 miles. Turn right at the fork leading to the base of Ghost Mountain (Marshal South Cabin Trail). Meet in the parking lot. No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 410-A11)

2011-2012 Canyoneer Free Guided Nature Walks

DESERT (continued)

62. MINE CANYON

EX5B

Sunday, January 22, 2012; 10 AM–2 PM

Hike into the North Pinyon Mountains, site of many desert mine locations, and visit a large Kumeyaay village site with hundreds of agave-roasting pits.

(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 exit north on Hwy. 79 through Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to Julian. Turn right on Hwy. 78. Meet the Canyoneer host at the beginning of Mine Wash Road, 2.7 miles east of the Tamarisk Grove intersection on Hwy. 78. We will consolidate into 4WD or high-clearance vehicles to reach the trailhead. No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 1098, section 1119)

63. MOUNTAIN PALM SPRINGS (FIVE GROVES)

E3B

Saturday, January 28, 2012; 10 AM–2 PM

Explore the vegetation, bird, and animal life of the five groves, two of which have spring-fed surface water. Watch for the unique Torote tree, also called the Elephant tree.

(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 exit on S2 at Ocotillo. Go northwest on S2 for about 15 miles to about 0.1 miles before mile marker 47 (decreasing numbers). Turn left (west) at the signed Mountain Palm Springs Campground entrance and follow a short dirt road to the campground. Facilities are available at the campground. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430-E5)

64. PINYON WASH

D4B

Sunday, February 5, 2012; 10 AM–2 PM

The trail begins at the end of Pinyon Wash, hiking 2 miles to Harper Flat, once the site of a large Indian camp.

(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 exit Hwy. 79 through Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to Julian. Turn right on Hwy. 78, meeting the Canyoneer host at the Yaqui Pass Junction (Hwy. 78/S3). We will consolidate into 4WD or high-clearance vehicles to reach the trailhead. No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 410-C10)

65. INDIAN HILL

IX6C

Saturday, February 11, 2012; 9 AM–3:30 PM

Hike through hillsides of teddy bear cholla and barrel cactus to the remains of a primitive 1912 railroad camp.

(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 exit at Ocotillo and go northwest on S2 for 4.1 miles, turning left onto an unmarked dirt road. Meet the Canyoneer host there. We will consolidate into 4WD or high-clearance vehicles to reach the trailhead. No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430-F6)

66. MCCAIN VALLEY

I5B

Sunday, March 11, 2012; 9 AM–1 PM

Take this high desert walk to a year-round spring. There is a remnant population of California bay laurel trees at this site.

(Bureau of Land Management/El Centro) Take I-8 east to the turnoff for Boulevard at Ribbonwood Rd. Follow it to Old Hwy. 80 and go east to McCain Valley Rd., passing Lark Canyon campground and Cottonwood Campground on McCain Valley Rd. Proceed to the end of the road and park. Facilities are available at Cottonwood Campground. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430-C5)