

# The Leave No Trace Recommendations for Getting Outside During Covid-19

**Desert Season 20/21: To keep yourselves, your communities and your outdoor spaces safe and healthy, please follow this guidance for getting outside and always stay abreast of San Diego County, California State and CDC guidelines regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.**



## 1 You and Your Outdoor World

When considering a visit to Borrego Springs and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®, your personal assessment of risk, your health, the health of others in your community, access to local and uncrowded spaces and more will play into your decision. Pay close attention to San Diego County and California State guidelines before heading out, remain at least 6-feet from other visitors and bring a mask or face covering to protect others and yourself and do not congregate in groups.

## 2 Expect Closures

Limited services and closed facilities may be common resulting in a lack of water, restrooms, open campgrounds and other facilities. Take necessary steps like bringing food, water, hand sanitizer, and trash bags, and educate yourself on Waste Alleviation Gel (WAG) bags or other portable toilet options for packing out human waste if there are no facilities. Check Park and San Diego County Public Health guidelines before visiting for current Covid-19-related specifics.

## 3 Pack Out Your Trash

In remote areas and primitive campsites, there will be no trash receptacles and no services available. Bring trash bags, be prepared to pack out your trash and recyclables and take all the way home.



Photo: Roger Guzman

## 4 Avoid Times and Places of High Use

Avoid crowded areas in the Park or ensure that you can practice physical distancing while visiting a busy area. Do not congregate in large groups. Many locations are now providing real-time information on visitor volume, so check park and county websites when planning a visit. Try to have a Plan B for getting outside if you arrive to find your outdoor destination particularly busy. Remember to follow San Diego County guidelines and California State Park guidelines at [parks.ca.gov/FlattenTheCurve](https://parks.ca.gov/FlattenTheCurve).

## 5 Practice Leave No Trace

Just because times are tough and outdoor resources may be limited, it doesn't mean that the **Leave No Trace Seven Principles** should fly out the window. Dogs are allowed in campgrounds, on legal dirt roads, paved roads and day use areas in the park on a 6-ft leash, but not on hiking trails. Never leave poop bags behind, double bag and pack out with all your trash. When stepping off a trail to physically distance try to find a durable surface to stand on, avoiding delicate desert plants and surfaces instead of walking far off the trail to pass. Do not create new trails as this contributes to erosion. Minimize impacts.

## 6 Be Considerate and Kind to Other Visitors

Face coverings, physical distancing, and a friendly wave when passing go a long way right now. Remember to keep a physical distance of 6 feet or more from those not in your immediate household. Help park staff do their jobs by doing your part to take care of each other and our beloved outdoors. And remember the outdoors belongs to all of us. Be kind.

## Enjoy Your World. Leave No Trace.

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