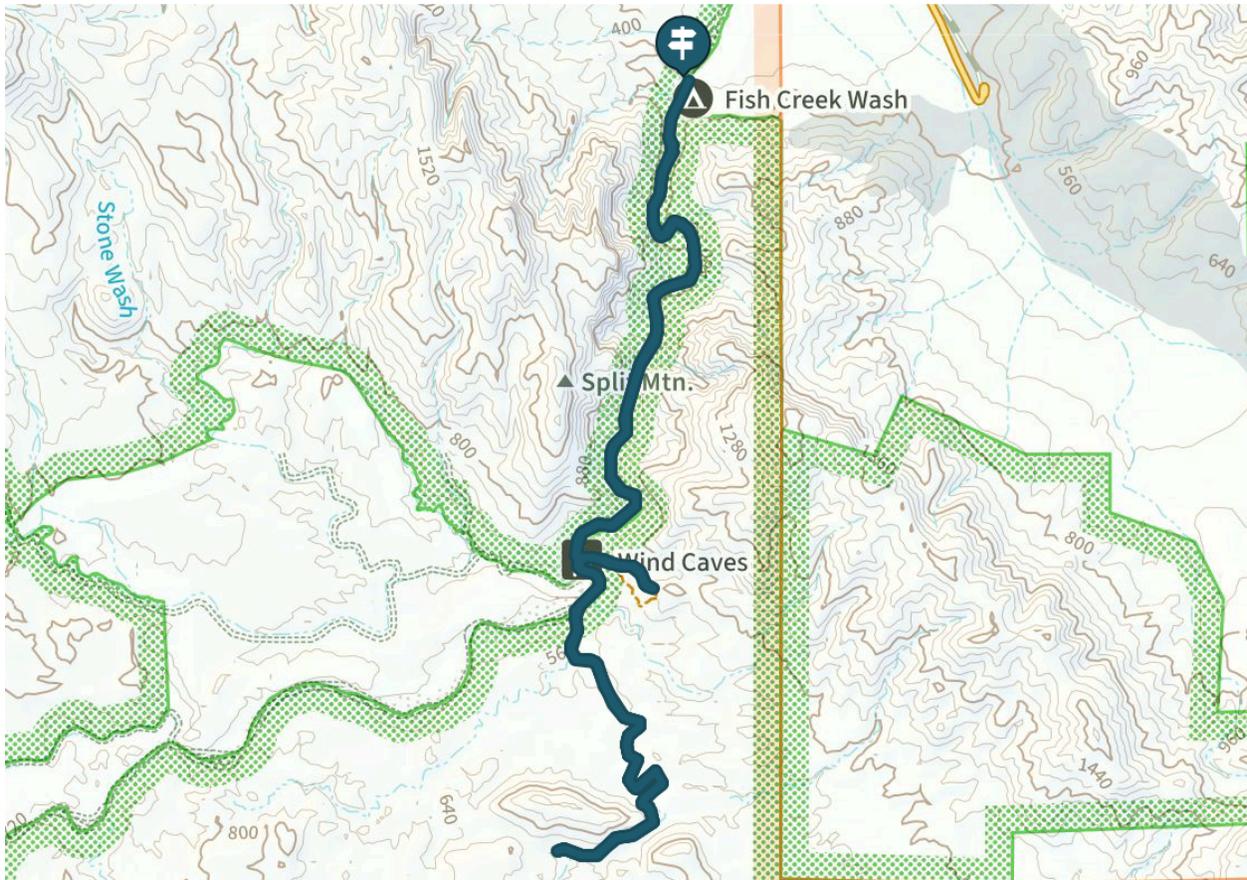


March 26 - 28, 2026

# DEEP TIME

Anza-Borrego State Park

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[VIEW & DOWNLOAD MAP](#)

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## Description

*Time according to laundry; time according to rain; time according to freeways; time according to sleep; time according to compost; time according to timecards; time according to fault lines; time according to dust.*

Millions of years ago, the ancestral Gulf of California extended deep into the Salton Trough, filling the Imperial, Mexicali and Coachella Valleys. Hundreds of marine species inhabited tropical waters that would become vast tracts of desert. Sediment created during the formation of the Grand Canyon eventually filled the Trough, and it gave way to a massive delta -- savannah that would support the first giant ground sloths, porcupines and bathtub-sized tortoises of North America.

*On time. Out of time. Spend time. Make time.*

Anza-Borrego State Park, with its unique geology and extensive, unbroken fossil record, is a nexus for observing this temporal drama. Material of past epochs reasserts itself via “basement rock” that’s been folded, squeezed, and thrust upward by a network of faults webbing off the San Andreas. How might a confrontation with these ancient (and not necessarily linear) timelines affect our own rhythms? How do we really measure time, and what alternatives can we find? On this trip, we’ll attempt to shift our time-sense and fall out of step with the western industrial clock on an 11 mile day hike through the primordial sea bed.

## Trip Details

### Itinerary

Day	Description	Mileage
Day 1	Drive to Fish Creek Primitive Campground via <a href="#">this route</a> Stop for lunch/group check-in at Salton Sea	—
Day 2	Rise early to hike Split Mountain Trail, eastern corner of the Carrizo Badlands, following Fish Creek Wash from campground to area just south of Elephant Knees. Short detour to visit the Wind Caves.  Return to camp for communal meal under the stars!	11 miles (out and back)
Day 3	Drive home via <a href="#">this route</a> Optional stop at <a href="#">Narrows Earth Trail</a> for short hike and geology lesson	0.5 miles

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**Total Mileage:** Approximately 11

**Difficulty:** Moderate - difficult. Terrain should be manageable, with little elevation gain. Long hike but folks have the option to turn back sooner if they would like.

## Expected Conditions

- Weather
  - We'll be tracking weather as we enter hot season, but hoping for daytime highs in the mid to upper 70s, nighttime lows in the mid to upper 50s. Temperatures vary considerably throughout Anza-Borrego depending on the elevation. We'll be in a low elevation area similar to [Borrego Springs](#).
- Trail
  - Sandy and possibly muddy
  - Possible that we'll be sharing the first part of the trail with 4WD vehicles
  - This is a vast, open area that could easily become disorienting. We will each have paper maps and trail markers that we can use to find our way, but please get the Modern Hiker app (free) and download the [Split Mountain Trail](#). You will be able to access the map with your phone's GPS.
- Water
  - No water sources on trail. Must be able to carry at least 4 liters for the day.
  - Stow extra gallons in your car
- Gear
  - Whatever you need to be comfortable for 2 nights car camping
  - Sun screen, layers, and lots of warm things for the nighttime.
  - Does anyone have a metal container they can bring for camp fire??? (Must have a bottom and sides)

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## Getting to the Trailhead

- See driving maps in itinerary
- A ranger informed me that we MIGHT need to pay \$20 per car per night at Fish Creek. She wasn't sure if the payment machines had been set up - if we see a machine we pay, otherwise we don't. We can park one or two cars off the road and shuttle into the campground depending on what we find.

## Additional Notes

Dinner! We'll have one communal meal on night two, after our long hike. What do we want to cook? Does anyone have any allergies or dietary considerations?