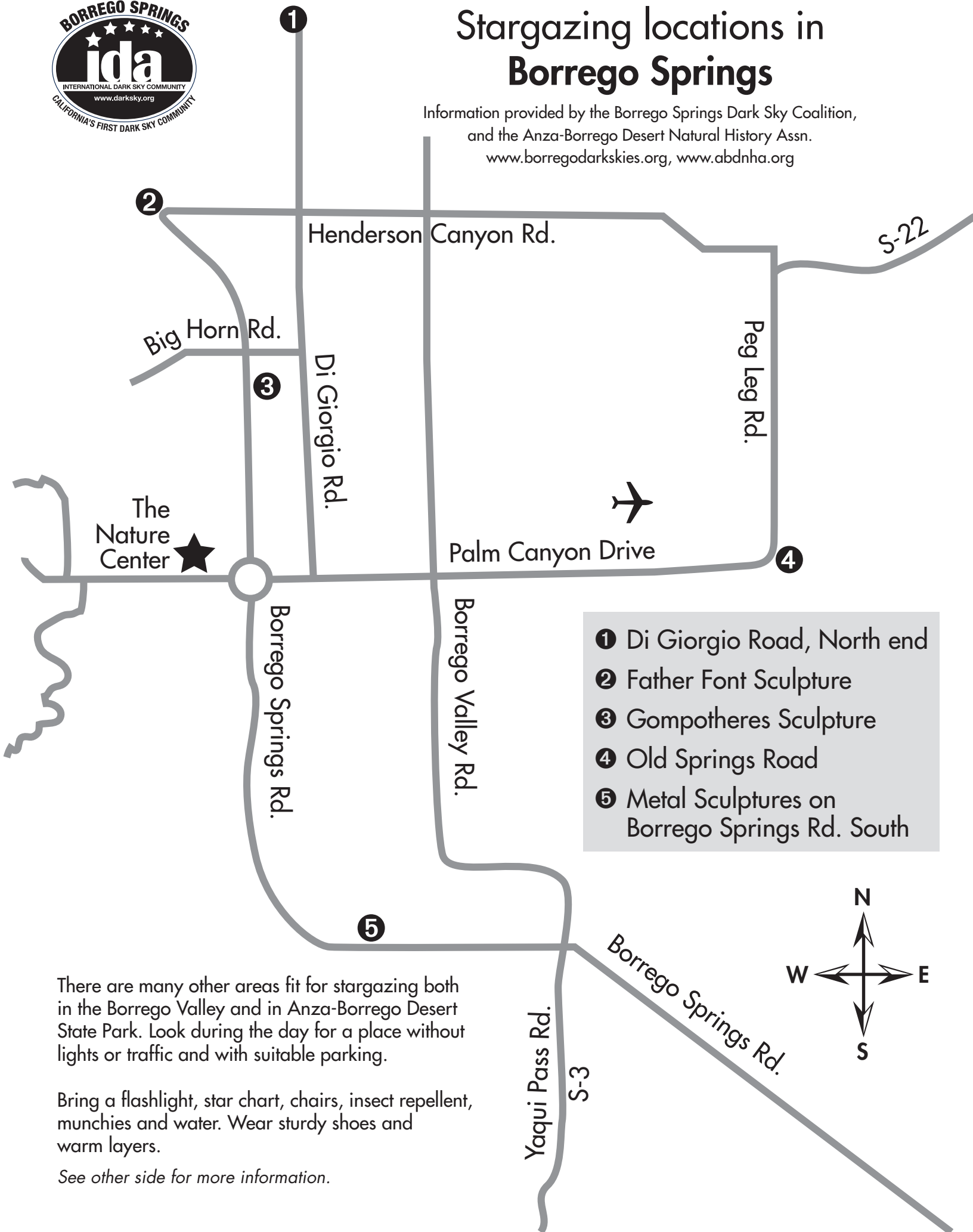




# Stargazing locations in Borrego Springs

Information provided by the Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition,  
and the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Assn.  
[www.borregodarkskies.org](http://www.borregodarkskies.org), [www.abdnha.org](http://www.abdnha.org)



- ① Di Giorgio Road, North end
- ② Father Font Sculpture
- ③ Gompotheres Sculpture
- ④ Old Springs Road
- ⑤ Metal Sculptures on Borrego Springs Rd. South

There are many other areas fit for stargazing both in the Borrego Valley and in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Look during the day for a place without lights or traffic and with suitable parking.

Bring a flashlight, star chart, chairs, insect repellent, munchies and water. Wear sturdy shoes and warm layers.

*See other side for more information.*

# Suggestions for Stargazing in Borrego Springs

Reprinted from the Spring 2019 *Sand Paper*, a publication of the Anza Borrego Desert Natural History Association

A common question from visitors to the Borrego Valley is “where can we go to view the stars tonight?” The question amuses us, but we refrain from saying “anywhere.” But the darker the location, the more stars you can see.

If you have a choice, make your desert visit when the Moon is less than half full. The Moon is so bright, it becomes difficult to see the faint stars that fill the heavens.

We suggest you drop in to The Nature Center store where you can pick up a free map showing the location of half a dozen good areas. The shop also sells star charts and useful books on stargazing.

It’s good to scout out your viewing location during the day so you will be familiar with it after dark.

Within a few miles of Borrego Springs there are excellent sites away from the business area, neighborhoods and street lighting. Here are some of the easiest places to get to that have good viewing and safe parking. By safe, I mean that you won’t lose your car in soft sand.

Many of the **animal sculptures along Borrego Springs Road, at both the northern and southern end**, have dirt roads with adequate places from which to view. **Yaqui Pass Road**, up from La Casa del Zorro, has a few pullouts with excellent viewing. To the East of Borrego Springs there a large flat area on Old Springs Road (access road to the county landfill site.) **Font’s Point Road** is very dark, but can be dicey without 4-wheel drive. The **road to Clark Dry Lake** is hard and excellent for seeing. In the summer, **Culp Valley** is a cooler choice some 3,000 feet higher than Borrego Springs.

If that all sounds too complex, try a super easy location: the **tennis court at the Borrego Springs Park**, near the new library. The black screening on the court fence blocks out most of the park lighting.

Provisioning for your night-time star safari should include flashlights with red cellophane for reading the star chart, and patio chairs such as chaise lounges that are easy on the neck. Wear shoes rather than sandals for better protection, and layers of clothing, even blankets. You won’t be sorry. In the heat of spring and even summer, most nights cool down after dark.

Flying critters may want to join your party, so insect repellent is advisable. Bring a picnic basket—you and your companions will enjoy stargazing longer if you have snacks on hand. And finally, water. Bring water. Always.

Try an astronomy app on your iPhone to get you oriented. Binoculars will help you enjoy more detail in the heavens but even eyeball astronomy is rewarding.

If you are new to stargazing, use your star chart to find the constellations that are easiest to make out—Orion and Taurus are high in the February sky. Then look for the Big and Little Dippers. By March, you should be able to spot the Twins (Gemini) and Leo the Lion.

You may also see the quick flash of a stray meteor falling toward Earth. Shortly after sunset, watch for the silent passing of a satellite, reflecting light from the not-yet-set Sun. We hope you enjoy Borrego Springs’ dark sky!

*Information provided by the Borrego Springs Dark Sky Coalition, [www.borregodarkskies.org](http://www.borregodarkskies.org)*

*Borrego Springs is an International Dark Sky Community, designated by the International Dark Sky Association.*

*See other side for more information.*



*Photo by Dennis Mammama*