

http://www.kcet.org/shows/socal_connected/content/environment/7-great-desert-locations-for-night-sky-viewing-in-socal-32879.html



Web Feature | [Environment](#)

The 7 Best SoCal Desert Locations for Night Sky Viewing

by [Zach Behrens](#)
April 21, 2011

A road trip away from a city's bright lights on a clear night will be a treat for anyone who looks up to the skies. Here in Southern California, we're especially lucky to live in a place with some of the best night sky viewing in the continental United States. You just have to venture at least 100 miles away from Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Here are 7 spots in our local deserts that offer brilliant views:

1. **Joshua Tree National Park** is a classic stargazing destination and one with plenty of public programs during the winter and spring seasons. Most of the events take place at the Cottonwood Campground amphitheater, which is known as one of the darkest places in the park — only the glow from Palm Springs and a nearby truck stop affect the view. A complete listing of events and locations can be found [here](#).

2. Farther south and completely enclosed by **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** is **Borrego Springs**, which in 2009 became the world's second **International Dark Sky Community**. The park was also **named by USA Today** as one of the top 10 places in the country to gaze at stars. Local night-sky buffs agree.