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Desert wildflower season is in full swing – more than 60 species of wildflowers can be seen in Joshua Tree National Park right now.

Bill Truesdell, retired chief of interpretation at Joshua Tree National Park, said not all species are visible from the road. When tourists find a good patch of flowers, they should stop, get out of their cars and walk around.

"They're likely to find more than they really realize is there," said Truesdell, who now volunteers at the park.

Species in bloom near the south end of the park include chuparosa, yellow brittlebush, Arizona lupine, desert poppies and chia. Near the Pinto Basin, visitors will find pink sand verbena, brown-eyed evening primrose, desert dandelions, white pincushions and yellow daisies. Desert lilies are in bloom near Interstate 10 and will soon be blooming in the Pinto Basin, Truesdell said, and bladderpod is blooming all over the park. The Cockscomb Mountains and Clarks Pass are the best places to see wildflowers right now, he said.

Joshua Tree National Park offers wildflower walks. Visitors should call the park at (760) 367-5500 for dates and times of wildflower walks.

While scouting for wildflowers in the park, Truesdell said he saw one Joshua tree in bloom. He noted that he saw quite a few with buds in the town of Yucca Valley.

Linda Slater, chief of resource interpretation at Mojave National Preserve, said she has not seen any budding Joshua trees yet. She said desert dandelions are blooming the most at the preserve, and visitors can see them on Kelbaker and Cima Roads, at the Kelso Depot Visitors Center, and on Interstate 40 between Barstow and Ludlow.

"We had an area that burned in our park a couple years ago, and that always puts on a good wildflower show," Slater said.

Lupine, phacelia, desert chicories, cacti, daisies, pincushions, Mojave asters, wild rhubarb, purple mat and fiddleneck are also visible in Mojave National Preserve, said Lesley Thornburg, operations manager at Cadiz Inc.

Wildflower blooming in both parks will continue through May. The best way for park visitors to find out where blooms are and what's blooming is to ask at the Visitor Center. In Joshua Tree National Park, the Oasis Visitor Center is located at the junction of Utah Trail and National Park Drive in Twentynine Palms, CA. In Mojave National Preserve, the Kelso Depot Visitor Center is located on Kelbaker Road in Kelso, CA.

Visitors can also get wildflower updates at Joshua Tree National Park's website: http://www.nps.gov/jotr or at Mojave National Preserve's website: www.nps.gov/moja.