

Self-Guided - Julian via Sunrise Highway

Google Maps link: <https://goo.gl/maps/RygGXfJ8Wa89kWyK8>

Stop 1: Laguna Mountain Visitor Center

The visitor center is staffed by the Laguna Mountain Volunteer Association. There is interpretive information as well as a small gift shop. The Laguna Mountain Lodge & Store is very short walk away. The Kwaaymii Interpretive Trail (a 0.8 mile loop trail) is located right by the parking area. If there is snow on the ground, please use extra caution.

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/california/indian-hill-nature-trail>

The Kwaaymii were a subtribe of the Kumeyaay people and are the most recent Native American inhabitants of this region. They spent Summers in the Lagunas and Winters in the desert, until competition from ranchers made them fear the loss of their mountain lands. Tomas Lucas was the last official member of the Kwaaymii tribe, passing away in 1989 at the age of 87.

There are restrooms here.

Stop 2: Kwaaymii Point - Pacific Crest Trail access

Here you are on the edge of the Lagunas. It is about a 6000 ft drop down to the Anza-Borrego Desert floor to the East. To the North is Mt San Jacinto - visible on clear days. To reach Kwaaymii Point, stroll down the 0.5 mile (each way) path. If you have ever wanted to hike the Pacific Crest Trail, well here is a small piece of it. You may observe that there is a stretch that looks like it was a road, because it was before 1975. You may also find several death markers (some are official, some are not). The viewpoint is a favorite of many – including bicyclists, hang gliders, hikers, motorcyclists, and star gazers.

Stop 3: Julian - <https://visitjulian.com/>

An 1870s gold rush town. Many of the shops and restaurants are in historic buildings from that period. The Eagle Mine still exists and is open 7 days a week for tours. For more information, check out their website <https://www.theeaglemining.com/>.

Today, Julian is known for its apple pies. We all have our favorite spot, so if you ask for recommendations, you will hear at least one of the following (listed alphabetically): Apple Alley, Julian Café, Julian Pie Company, or Mom's.

There is beer, hard cider and wine tasting. Please be responsible – they all sell packaged items to go.

There is one gas station in Julian - Ramco, 1913 Main St. Following the route back to the hotel, the next gas opportunity is at the Tavern Rd. exit off I-8 – about 35 miles away.