

<b>Distance</b>	6.5 miles, Loop
<b>Hiking Time</b>	4½ hours
<b>Elevation Gain/Loss</b>	900'/900'
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderately strenuous
<b>Trail Use</b>	Suitable for backpacking
<b>Best Times</b>	November through April
<b>Agency</b>	ABDSP
<b>Required Map</b>	USGS 7.5-min <i>Sweeney Pass</i>
<b>Notes</b>	Navigation required, moderate to difficult terrain

**DIRECTIONS** From Interstate 8 at Ocotillo, drive 4 miles northwest on Highway S-2 to the unpaved Dos Cabezas Road on the left, signed EC119. Go south on this road and veer right after 1.1 miles. Continue another 6.1 miles west, staying north of the tracks, to get to Dos Cabezas railroad siding. From the siding, continue driving 2.2 miles along the north side of the tracks until you reach the road's end, which overlooks a wash.

A variety of interesting historical, botanical, and geological features can be seen along this somewhat improvisational route. Even if you don't want to attempt this entire loop, you'll find much to fascinate you on an abbreviated hike.

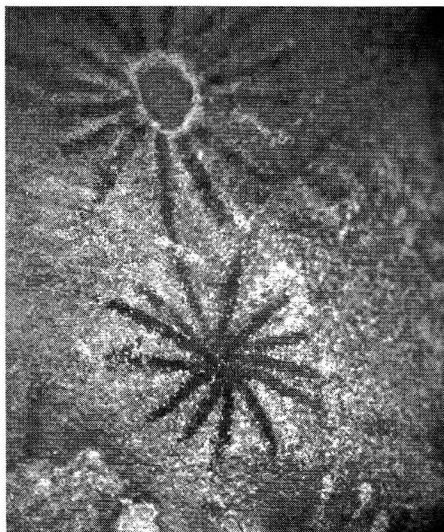
On foot, backtrack about 200 yards, cross the tracks (west of here the tracks are posted against trespassing—don't walk along them or loiter around them), and head south-southwest across a broad alluvial plain dotted with cacti and small shrubs. Several rocky hills consisting of desert-varnished granitic boulders punctuate the surface of the plain. One of these is Indian Hill—which is incorrectly labeled on the *Sweeney Pass* topo map. The true Indian Hill, a site of former American Indian occupation, has a fire-blackened cave and *morteros* on its north-east side.

The next point of interest is the remains of a circa 1912 railroad camp used during the construction of the railroad. The ruins are located 0.1 mile south of the center of section 20. Use your topo map as a guide. Here you'll find the walls

of an old shed constructed of mortar and blasting-powder cans.

Back up about 0.1 mile and follow remnants of an old four-wheel-drive road west toward a hillside overlooking the railroad tracks. Cross the tracks and descend steeply over a rugged slope into a tributary canyon of Carrizo Canyon. Proceed north, downhill, along the canyon's sandy floor past several seeps and small palm groves. There's good camping here and there in flat areas sheltered from the wind.

Sun-symbol pictographs at Indian Hill



The seep and large grove of palms at the 1720-foot contour is one of the spots labeled CARRIZO PALMS on the topo map. From 1912 through 1919, railroad workers installed a pump here to boost water up to the camp.

After another mile downhill along the canyon floor, you'll arrive at a spot where a narrow, west-flowing tributary canyon enters from the right. Go right up this canyon, with an initial climb up and over

a dry waterfall. Follow this narrow canyon east for about 0.5 mile, with colorful rock formations to look at and scrambles over bedrock outcrops and easy dry falls to enjoy. When the canyon bottom becomes sandy, stay with it 1 more mile south to the tracks. Don't follow the tracks; instead, cross them, continue south, and drop into an east-draining wash. Pass under the tracks and you'll soon arrive at a point just below your parked car.