



# In Search of Eldorado

Link to the Eldorado Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VczD1olutQ8>



Day 21  
Thursday,  
January 23rd

Back to  
Joshua Tree  
National Park

Weather  
40's to 60's and Sunny

## Hello to Family & Friends

The shin splint was hurting when I went to bed, but it wasn't too bad when I awoke, so my plan to do the Maze is still a go.

It's a short drive back to the trailhead and there's a different ranger at the kiosk as I drive through, no I don't need another map. How about a trail marker?

There are only two other cars as I back the RV in, so it shouldn't be very crowded.

A little more Flexall: check; water: check; Gatorade: check; hat, hiking pole, snacks, etc., I am ready to roll.

The Maze Loop is about five miles. I hope I can make it.

## In Search of Eldorado

By Edgar Allan Poe

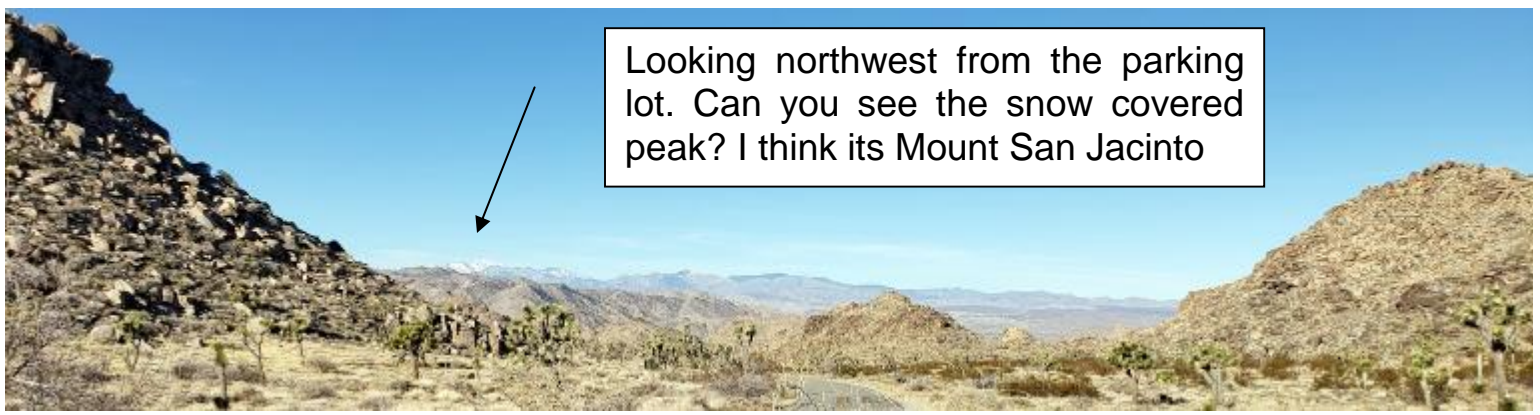
Gaily bedight,  
A gallant knight,  
In sunshine and in shadow,  
Had journeyed long,  
Singing a song,  
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—  
This knight so bold—  
And o'er his heart a shadow—  
Fell as he found  
No spot of ground  
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength  
Failed him at length,  
He met a pilgrim shadow—  
'Shadow,' said he,  
'Where can it be—  
This land of Eldorado?'

'Over the Mountains  
Of the Moon,  
Down the Valley of the Shadow,  
Ride, boldly ride,'  
The shade replied,—  
'If you seek for Eldorado!'





Looking northwest from the parking lot. Can you see the snow covered peak? I think its Mount San Jacinto



This view is south. Kind of reminds me of the Lonely Mountain in THE HOBBIT. With all the Joshua trees acting as elves and goblins during the Battle of Five Armies.



Above – There are a lot of rocks around here.

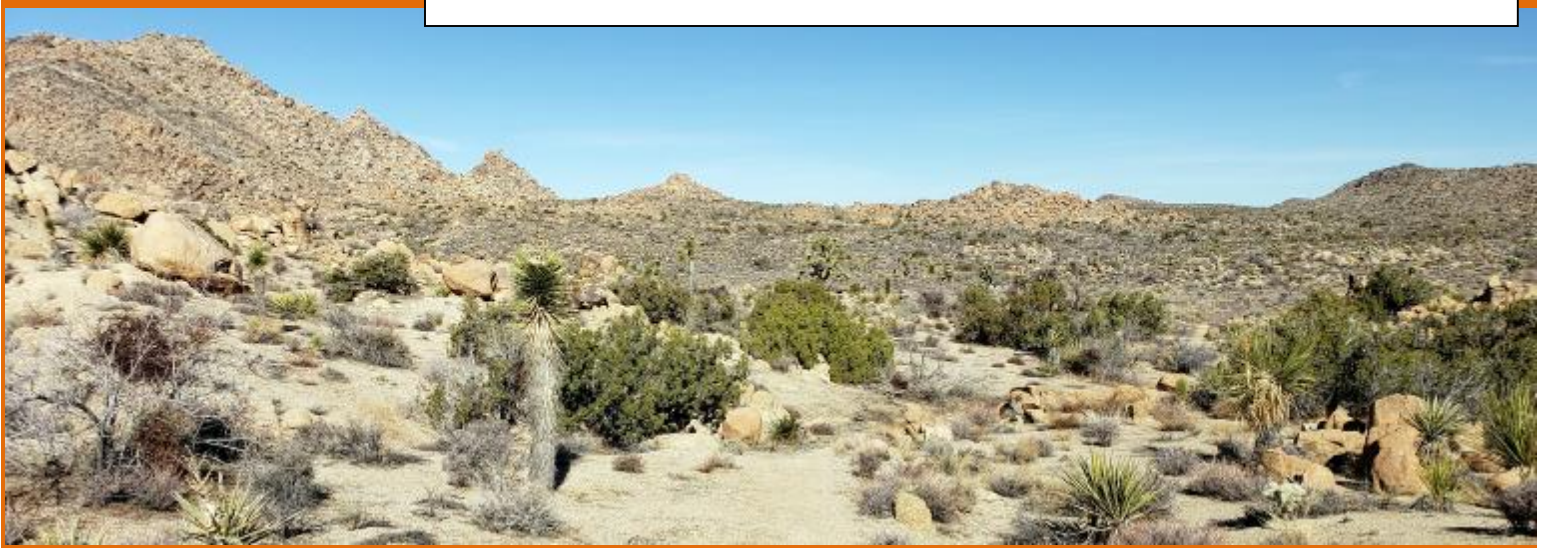
I arrived at the trail marker for the Window Loop Trail. It leaves and rejoins the Maze after looping 1.8 miles farther south. It adds 1.8 miles to the hike, but really only one mile since you have to subtract the .8 of the Maze I am skipping. Leg feels good, just a little pain, mostly on the downhills. I continued down the Maze Loop for about 50 yards, then turned around. The Maze was just heading up a dry wash, whereas the Window continues cross country. I chose the Window.



The breast of the pass.

Above – The valley I am leaving behind

Below – The valley I am entering



I rejoin the Maze Loop. It's still a dry wash coming up from where I left it. I wonder if it followed the wash the entire eight-tenths of a mile. How boring.





A good spot for a mid-morning break,  
a snack and a rest of the leg.



This is more like it



A much better view of that snow sprinkled mountain, don't you think?



I guess it's that time. After 18 different hikes in four days, covering almost 30 miles, plus bouldering, I am leaving Joshua Tree National Park for the last time. I have seen and done a lot here during my visit, and I leave with some fantastic hiking and bouldering memories. A very enjoyable experience.



The station. I am not here for the mailboxes (a decorative touch with no particular reason for placement, I asked).....



....or because of the dune buggy (the pumps don't work, this all decorative, the pumps are stuck at .40/gallon).....

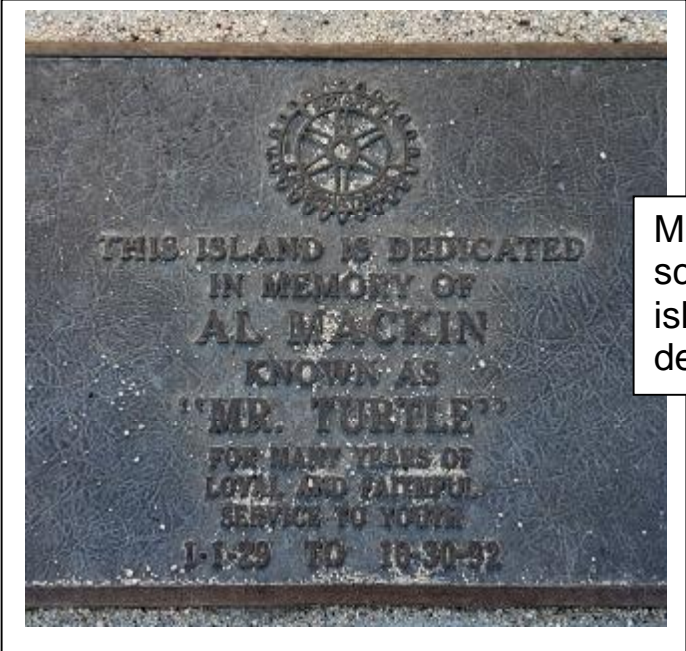
....or because of this THING (anybody out there ever own one of these).....





...but because of this guy, Big Josh, another giant muffler man turned cowboy.

Roadside America - Formerly of Mecca, California, the fiberglass cowboy giant was sold in May 2017 and moved to Joshua Tree in February 2018 -- where he was christened Big Josh.



Murdle The Turtle, a donated sculpture, resides on the island in a parking lot dedicated to Mr. Turtle.



Some of you may have heard of this place, some of you have probably not.

The following is from Roadside America - The Joshua Tree Inn, one mile from Joshua Tree National Park, is where Gram Parsons drew his last breath in 1973 before dying of a drug overdose in Room 8. This inn has hosted many famous people since its construction in 1950, including Keith Richards and Anita Pallenberg, John Wayne, Emmylou Harris, Donovan, and many more. Several of the rooms are named after the people who have stayed in them.

The death of Gram Parsons involves interesting rock-n-roll lore in which two of his good friends stole his dead body from LAX airport in Los Angeles to avoid having it sent back and buried in New Orleans. The friends then took the late Parsons on a drunken road trip back to Joshua Tree's Cap Rock to honor Parson's wish to be cremated in that location.

Cap Rock, I have been there, you have seen the photos. Not sure what was so special about it.

The oddball items above are all in Joshua Tree, the city not the National Park.





Yucca Valley – Home of the WalMart I have been crashing at the last two nights and will do so again tonight.

I finished the Maze about noon. After lunch and a protracted visit with customer service for which I spent an hour and ten minutes on the phone, it was 3 p.m. by the time I arrived here. I needed to do some shopping. I needed to do some laundry. My next destination would probably not be too active by the time I get there, so I stopped at another Stater's Grocery (still no chocolate milk). Then found a laundry and tossed in a load. While that was spinning I swept and washed the floor and ate dinner.

Now it's back to WalMart and newsletters to write.

I am now caught up with the news, and so are you.

Until next time.....