

Rare 'Super Bloom' Erupts in Southern California

BY [STEPHANIE VALERA](#) 03.09.2019 :: 3:39PM EDT

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Following record winter rains, the hillsides and valleys along Interstate 15 have turned bright green and orange, drawing thousands of visitors to a wildflower "super bloom" beginning to take shape on March 6, 2019, near Lake Elsinore, California. (Photo Credit: George Rose/Getty Images)

Get ready to see a lot of poppies in your Instagram feeds. Southern California's wet winter has produced colorful "super blooms" of wildflowers so vivid that they can be seen from thousands of feet above on mountaintops.

This super bloom, wildflower spectacles that exceed a typical season, is the second in two years, which is a highly unusual occurrence. In California, super blooms happen about once in a decade in a given area, and they have been occurring less frequently with the drought.

In Riverside County, thousands have flocked to Lake Elsinore to photograph an eye-popping display of California poppies. The region is the first place to see a super bloom, which started the last week of February and now the hillsides are awash in vibrant orange, according to *the San Francisco Chronicle*.

Purple and golden yellow wildflowers have also started carpeting 600,000 acres of the Anza-Borrego State Desert Park. Thousands of verbenas, desert sunflowers and evening dune primrose cover the land, with more to come, AccuWeather reported.

“It’s going to be better than it’s been in the last dozen or so years,” said Mike McElhatton, educational program director of The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Natural History Association, told AccuWeather.

Southern California has received steady rainfall for the past five months, uncommon in the desert area, and the rain has created a continual dense, moist soil allowing wildflowers to flourish.







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One of our meteorologists took these photos of [#wildflowers](#) blooming in Lake Elsinore a few days ago. Do you have any photos of this year's gorgeous [#superbloom](#)? If so, share them with us! [#cawx](#) [#sandiegowx](#)

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And of course, where there's bloom, there will be photographers wanting to capture the Instagram-worthy display.

"We've had a huge influx of people," Jonathan Reinig, the natural resources manager for Riverside County Parks, told *the San Francisco Chronicle*.

“There’s traffic everyday from it. The county says it’s their most accident-y time of year.”