

Desert Institute

at Joshua Tree National Park



Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit. – Edward Abbey



Course Catalog Fall 2021



Welcome to the Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park



For those of you who were sickened during the pandemic, who saw their businesses wither away, or who faced tragic losses of loved ones, I can only begin to imagine how you are feeling today. Please know that you are surrounded by a community of people who care deeply about you. The world that we see on this strikingly sunny day seems light years from the darkness that permeated our lives just a few months ago. During the first five months of the year, we have seen over half a million of our brothers and sisters, just here in America, perish at the hands of the pandemic. We saw an insurrection that threatened the foundations of our republic. Finally, we awoke to see the evil hold that racism has on our nation and how it destroys lives. With the sun streaming through my window and a view of Queen Mountain on the horizon, Joshua Tree National Park offers a sharp contrast to the last year. Our protected park has helped millions of visitors to take a reprieve from the pandemic and recharge their souls. Through common sense and science, we were able to provide safe opportunities to homebound people from around the west, seeking a chance to find beauty during one of the darkest periods in modern history.

I am so pleased to announce that the Desert Institute is again open for business. Beginning this summer, we will have the chance to hike with experts and discover the layers of science, history, and art that saturate this desert landscape. Things may be a bit different at first, but I can guarantee that you will walk away from these classes with an appreciation of how lucky we are to be alive and to have this park in our back yard.

I look forward to your return in the coming months. Joshua Tree National Park and the Desert Institute are excited to welcome you home!

David Smith
Superintendent
Joshua Tree National Park



I would like to invite you to join us in our celebration of nature and to explore nature through our many classes listed in this catalog. There are many camping programs for those who wish to spend a wonderful weekend with our great instructors and the Desert Institute volunteer team exploring geology, birding, photography, campfire cooking, and healing hikes. Also returning is the Old Schoolhouse Lecture series with a ten month schedule of discussions on history, conservation, art and natural sciences. You can see the schedule of the Old Schoolhouse lectures on our website: joshuatree.org.

In addition to resuming our in-person classes, we continue to offer a range of virtual classes which includes creative writing, night sky photography, and the class "Secrets of Animal Language". On October 2, the Desert Institute will produce the event, **Archaeopalooza**, at Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree. This free, one-day event will celebrate Archaeology Month. We will have lecturers, demonstrations, display areas for historical societies and archaeology clubs along with activities for children. Contact us for more information.

Kevin Wong
Director, Desert Institute
Joshua Tree National Park



This season is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Visit 29 Palms. Check out Visit29.org to learn about all the great shops, restaurants, lodging and attractions in Twentynine Palms and start planning your visit.

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CAMPING OPTION

* OFFERED FOR UNIVERSITY CREDIT

Photos by Kevin Wong, unless credited otherwise.

Safety Protocols and Our Promises to You

- Class sizes have been reduced to allow for social distancing. When possible, we will eliminate some classroom lectures and replace them with Zoom meetings that you can access and view from the safety of your home prior to the field component.
- Classrooms will be disinfected, and hand sanitizer stations will be available.
- Face coverings may be required for all participants, volunteers, and instructors for indoor programs.
- Social distancing will be required. Please be respectful to your neighbors in our programs.
- We will no longer encourage carpooling. You may drive your own vehicle for personal safety.
- Our instructors and volunteers will have the authority to enforce these protocols. If these rules are not acceptable to you, please don't register. We reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.

Of course, as our country's vaccination rate increases and CDC recommendations are revised, we will monitor the situation and these protocols will be reviewed and changed as needed for your safety and for the safety of our instructors and volunteer team.

Teachers

Our credit courses are designed to meet the professional development needs of educators for career and salary advancement. Come for a weekend of inspiration, education and fun in Joshua Tree National Park! Course credit is offered through UC Riverside Extension. Teachers may apply for Professional Career Development through their school district. Fall credit courses:

- Desert Snakes: Mystery and Intrigue**
- Birds of the Mojave**
- Insects and Arthropods of the Morongo Basin**
- Desert Invertebrates**
- Birds of Anza Borrego**
- Geology: Creation of the Joshua Tree Landscape**
- Geology and Geomorphology of Death Valley**

Please honestly assess your fitness level by reviewing the hiking level descriptions on this page and in the course descriptions.



EASY - Leisurely to moderate pace up to 3 miles per day through relatively flat terrain with frequent stops.



MODERATE - Moderate, steady pace up to 6 miles per day with some elevation gain and loss through some loose, rocky or uneven terrain.



STRENUOUS - Longer rigorous hikes at a moderate to brisk pace up to 12 miles per day with significant elevation gain and loss up to 3,000 feet through steep terrain, with possible rock scrambling.



EXTREME - Course includes rock scrambling throughout a significant portion of route. Good balance, full range of motion, and three points of contact while scrambling are necessary.

The images and written content used within this website or document are intended to represent offered courses; however, weather, landscape, and other conditions during the actual course may be different. Certain catalog and course content may be in the public domain, and some content, such as photographs, may have been contributed or licensed by third-parties and may be protected by copyright. Desert Institute course descriptions may contain links or URLs to third-party websites. These sites are not under the control of the National Park Service, Joshua Tree National Park, or the Desert Institute, who provide them as a convenience only, and their use shall not be construed as an endorsement of, sponsorship of, or affiliation with the website; and they are not responsible for the contents.

Course dates, instructors, and class content are subject to change. Contact the Desert Institute for the most up-to-date information.

"How-To" Classes

[Register Now!](#)
[Click On Class Name](#)

"How-To" Identify Animal Burrows

Date/Time: Sunday, September 19, 9 am - 1 pm
 Meet at: Black Rock Nature Center
 Fee: \$35 JTNPA member, \$45 non member
 Instructor: Candice Weber, Professor, College of the Desert
 Hike Level: Easy 

Have you ever taken a walk and noticed a hole in the ground and wondered what animal made it? Holes abound in the desert as animals seek refuge from climatic extremes and predators or hunt for food. Candice Weber will shed light on ground holes, elevated holes, divots, and mounds in this field class. Participants will learn how to identify holes and what clues can help discern which animals are living in which holes in the classroom session and then put their knowledge to the test in the field. Curious visitors, as well as seasoned naturalists, will enjoy peeking into the secret lives of these subterranean dwellers and discover who's behind all of that digging!



Wilderness Cooking School: Campsite Cooking

Date/Time: Saturday, November 13, 9 am - 4 pm
 Sunday, November 14, 7:30 am - 2 pm
 Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
 Fee: \$180 JTNPA member, \$190 non member
 Instructors: Alexis Grinbold, Campfire Cuisine Instructor
 Scott Klinger, Photography Instructor
 Hike Level: Easy 

Have you ever noticed that when you are out in the wilderness, everything tastes better? Back in the days of the Wild West, Dutch ovens were like gold. They were that important. Nowadays, the mere thought of trying to survive in the wild sends shivers down people's spines. The thing is, pretty much anything you make at home in the traditional oven and on the stovetop can be made in the wild in a Dutch oven. Bread? No problem. Pie? Absolutely. Stew? A no-brainer. The curriculum includes lessons on meal planning and culinary techniques with an emphasis on cast iron, campfire, and propane stove/oven cooking. You will also learn basic baking, grilling, and survival food preparation skills. Meal ingredients for Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, and Sunday lunch are included in the course fee. Learn how rewarding it is to cook in the refreshing air of Joshua Tree National Park. After dinner, professional photographer Scott Klinger will cover the basics of night photography to enable you to document your campfire creations and outdoor adventures.

Women's "Get Away" Weekend

Date/Time: Saturday, November 6, 8 am - 5 pm
 Sunday, November 7, 8 am - 4 pm
 Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
 Fee: \$120 JTNPA members, \$130 non member
 Instructors: Pam Kersey, Hiking & Camping Instructor
 Robin Balch, Hiking & Camping Instructor
 Hike Level: Moderate 

Spend a weekend with the Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park, where you can go to unplug, to get away, to learn new skills, and to enjoy the company of like-minded women. Trade in your computer, cell phone, Instagram, clocks, schedules, and workplace jargon for an off-the-grid weekend with the ladies - two days of pure unadulterated fun and education! Join Pam and Robin on hikes, creative exercises, learn camping, hiking, and backpacking tips and strategies, and explore new ways of appreciating nature through overviews of Joshua Tree National Park's natural and cultural history. This weekend of classes will be held at the Lost Horse Campground, a beautiful exclusive location that is perfect for this program!

Camping is optional but highly recommended.



Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Earth Science Courses

Desert Snakes: Mystery and Intrigue*

(Biology x414.51, 0.5 unit)

Date/Time: Sunday, September 26, 9 am - 4 pm
Meet at: Black Rock Nature Center
Noncredit Fee: \$85 JTNPA member, \$95 non member
Credit Fee: \$120 JTNPA member, \$130 non member
Instructor: William Hayes, Ph.D., Zoology, Physiology
Professor of Biology, Loma Linda University
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



Fearful and respected by many for their potential to inflict harm, snakes have long captured the fascination of humanity. William Hayes will introduce participants to a remarkable variety of venomous and non-venomous snakes that inhabit southern California's deserts in this all-day field class. Starting in the classroom, Dr. Hayes will discuss the many adaptations that are essential for snakes to survive in the desert ecosystem, including unique morphological, physiological, behavioral, and ecological traits. Snake venom will also be discussed in detail, providing answers to the following questions: What, exactly, is venom? How is it made and how is it delivered? Can venoms be beneficial? The class will explore the surrounding desert to identify reptile habitat and hopefully see some snakes!

Insects and Arthropods of the Morongo Basin*

(Entomology x405.1, 1.5 unit)

Date/Time: Friday, October 8, 6:30 pm - 9 pm
Sat, Oct. 9, 8 am - 2 pm, 6 pm - 8:30 pm
Sunday, October 10, 8 am - 12 pm
Meet at: Black Rock Nature Center
Noncredit Fee: \$145 JTNPA member, \$155 non member
Credit Fee: \$245 JTNPA member, \$255 non member
Instructor: Kurt Leuschner, M.S., Wildlife Ecology
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



This class is sponsored by the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve.

Did you know that insects can survive in temperatures over 110 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade with little or no water? Kurt Leuschner will explore the lives of the largest group of animals in the world through a study of insect anatomy, survival traits, habitats, and behaviors. Participants will learn to identify and distinguish insects from other arthropods and then practice their skills in the field. Field observations will include desert, dune, and riparian habitats, as well as a special night session with black lights at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Leuschner will share amazing stories of insects like the yucca moth, the ant lion, and the world they inhabit.

I have been thrilled with the quality of classes from the Desert Institute. The Biological Soil Crusts class really stretched me and I felt new worlds open. What an experience. I need several more lifetimes to pursue all my interests. Thank you for providing these quality experiences!

Birds of The Mojave Desert*

(Biology x404.2, 2 units)

NEW

Date/ Time: Tuesday, September 28, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Saturday, October 2, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm
Sunday, October 3, 7:30 am – 12:30 pm
Meet at: Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx
Noncredit Fee: \$255 JTNPA member, \$265 non member
Credit Fee: \$385 JTNPA member, \$395 non member
Instructor: Kurt Leuschner, M.S., Wildlife Ecology
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



Oases in the Mojave Desert are used by a wide variety of bird species every fall as stopping points during their southward migration. Beginning on Tuesday evening, this course examines the important role of these stopover areas in the conservation of neotropical migrant birds and introduces the techniques used to identify the common families of birds found in the vicinity of the Desert Studies Center. On Saturday, students travel by car to nearby sites in Death Valley, Baker, and Soda Springs that serve as migrant "traps." Some of these sites are marshes, and others are merely small islands of green in a sea of desert. Through observation of both migrant and resident birds in their natural habitats, students learn about ecology, natural history, and special adaptations to the harsh desert environment. Sunday's activities center around the Desert Studies Center, where more than 240 bird species have already been recorded. The course should benefit ornithology students of all levels, those interested in general desert ecology, and teachers looking for useful ideas for the classroom. This field study is based at the Desert Studies Center (of California State University), located within the Preserve at Soda Springs (Zzyzx), about a three-hour drive from Joshua Tree. The course fee includes two nights' lodging (Friday and Saturday nights) at the Center (dormitory rooms & some couple rooms). Upon enrollment, you will be sent detailed information about the Center and what to bring.



Earth Science Courses

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Desert Invertebrates: A Macro Photography and Microscopy Primer*

(Biology x412.19, 1 unit)

Date/Time: Saturday, October 16, 9 am - 4:30 pm
Sunday, October 17, 9 am - 4 pm
Meet at: Oasis Visitor Center
Noncredit Fee: \$145 JTNPA member, \$155 non member
Credit Fee: \$195 JTNPA member, \$205 non member
Instructor: Paul DeLey, Ph.D., Zoology, UC Riverside
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



Participants will be introduced to the major groups of respectively macroscopic and microscopic invertebrates found in Southern California's deserts, where and when to find them, and how to observe and identify them with the aid of online tools after taking digital macro photographs in the field (in the case of insects and other animals visible to the naked eye), or with the aid of a compound microscope in the lab (for smaller animals). The first part will include an outline of basic techniques for approaching and photographing different macro subjects with a compact camera or an interchangeable lens/SLR camera. In the second part, we will demonstrate simple techniques for isolating microscopic invertebrates from different materials, how to transfer them to microscope slides and how to operate a compound microscope to observe them.

Class size is limited to 6, please sign up early!

Birds of Anza Borrego*

(Biology x404.9, 1.5 units)

Date/Time: Tuesday, , October 19, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturday, October 23, 7:15 am - 5 pm
Sunday, October 24, 7:15 am - 12 pm
Meet at: Borrego Desert Nature Center, Borrego Springs
Noncredit Fee: \$145 JTNPA member, \$155 non member
Credit Fee: \$245 JTNPA member, \$255 non member
Instructor: Kurt Leuschner, M.S., Wildlife Ecology
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



This three-day weekend class explores the oases in and around the Anza Borrego Desert, which is home to a surprisingly wide variety of bird species. This habitat also provides the perfect resting place for migrants such as warblers, flycatchers, grosbeaks, and other tired travelers on their way south for the winter. After a Zoom lecture on Tuesday night, the class spends Saturday and Sunday in the field, studying both migrant and resident bird species. Participants will learn about: conservation, ecology, natural history, and special adaptations to the harsh desert environment.

Participants will need to make their own weekend accommodations. We have acquired a group campsite at Anza Borrego State Park for those who wish to camp. For those that wish to reserve a motel room, please contact us for a list of accommodations in Borrego Springs.

Geology of Amboy Crater

Date/Time: Saturday, October 23, 9 am - 3 pm
Meet at: Amboy Crater National Natural Landmark
Fee: \$85 JTNPA member, \$95 non member
Instructor: Alessandro Grippo, Ph.D., Geological Sciences
Hike Level: Moderate/Strenuous



Volcanoes of Southern California? We are famous for faults and earthquakes, and maybe for other geologic phenomena, but not volcanoes. Still, when we look at our landscape, we find evidence of volcanic activity, some of it quite recent. In this class we will learn basic concepts of geology and explore Amboy volcano and the surrounding lava fields to understand why they formed and if they could become active again! Designated a National Natural Landmark in 1973, Amboy Crater was recognized for its visual and geological significance. There are a number of dormant volcanoes in the Mojave Desert, and Amboy Crater is a perfect example of a cinder volcanic cone very similar to the volcanoes throughout the region. Join Professor Alessandro Grippo on this all-day field trip.

Suggested Reading: *Roadside Geology of Southern California* by Sylvester and Gans, found in the Visitor Centers or order at joshuatreeshop.org.

Geology: Creation of Joshua Tree Landscape*

(Geosciences x460.4, 1 unit)

Date/Time: Friday, November 5, 4 pm - 7 pm
Saturday, November 6, 8 am - 5 pm
Meet at: Oasis Visitor Center
Noncredit Fee: \$145 JTNPA member, \$155 non member
Credit Fee: \$210 JTNPA member, \$220 non member
Instructor: Tor Lacy, M.S., Geology, Professor, Cerritos College
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



Investigate the natural architecture and origin of Joshua Tree National Park's landscape with Tor Lacy, geology professor, Cerritos College. Starting in a Zoom meeting on Friday, participants will be introduced to basic geologic principles, including major rock groups, plate tectonics, mountain building, and the impact of weathering. Tor will discuss how these processes worked together to form the fantastic desert landscape of the park. The class will venture into the field on Saturday to observe and identify monzogranite, gneiss, aplit, and more. For those new to geology or experienced geologists, Lacy will make learning about this complex and unique landscape comprehensible and fun.

Suggested Reading: *Joshua Tree National Park Geology* by Trent & Hazlett, found in the Visitor Centers or order at joshuatreeshop.org.

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Earth Science Courses

Geology of the San Andreas Fault

Date/Time: Saturday, November 20, 9 am - 4 pm
Meet at: Coachella Valley Preserve
Fee: \$85 JTNPA member, \$95 non member
Instructor: Ted Reeves, B.A., Professor of Earth Sciences, University of the Pacific
Hike Level: Moderate



California is a state defined by plate tectonics, motion, continental drift, and subduction zones. Join Ted Reeves as he explains the origin and effects of the San Andreas Fault system. Reeves will unfold the geologic story of the Indio Hill, the Mecca Hills, and the Salton Trough in this all-day field class. Participants will meet at the Coachella Valley Preserve and walk a short distance to see fault features. We will then travel to Box Canyon and Painted Canyon and observe spectacular faults and folds where the Pacific plate is forcing up the Mecca Hills. Reeves will illuminate fault-related features in the field with special emphasis on physical deformations of the landscape. Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore the San Andreas Fault zone and the palm oases!



Geology & Cultural History of Cottonwood Spring

Date/Time: Saturday, December 4, 9 am - 4 pm
Meet at: Cottonwood Visitor Center
Fee: \$85 JTNPA member, \$95 non member
Instructor: Ted Reeves, Instructor, University of the Pacific
Hike Level: Moderate



Stretch your legs and enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Cottonwood Mountains with Ted Reeves in this all-day field class. Reeves will discuss the rocks and minerals of Cottonwood Mountains and tell stories of the people who eked out a living in the Cottonwood Spring area during the late 1800s. Participants will walk six miles through the rolling hills of the Colorado Desert to see mills, mines, and more. Along the trail, Reeves will share the history of the cowboys, miners, and teamsters who depended on Cottonwood Spring for their livelihood. The route will follow a portion of a prominent freight road built in the 1880s. Don't miss the opportunity to learn how geology is connected to cultural history at Cottonwood Spring!

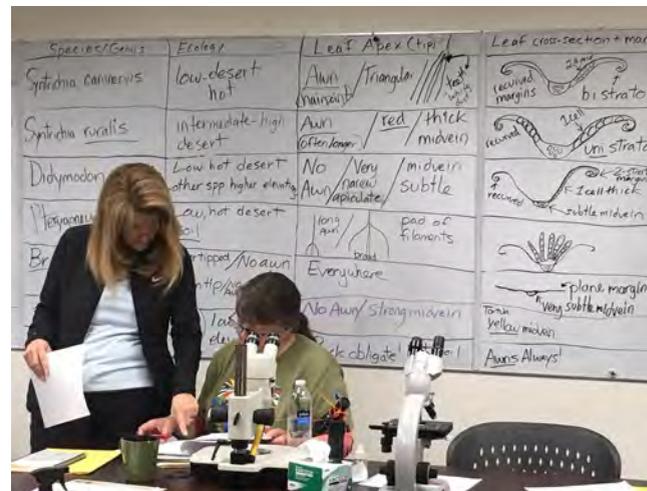
Geology and Geomorphology of Death Valley*

(Geosciences x453, 2 units)

Date/Time: Friday, January 7, 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday, January 8, 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday, January 9, 9 am - 3 pm
Meet at: Furnace Creek Visitor Center
Fee: \$225 JTNPA member, \$235 non member
Credit Fee: \$355 JTNPA member, \$365 non member
Instructor: Alessandro Grippo, Ph.D., Geological Sciences
Hike Level: Moderate



In this below-sea-level basin, steady drought and record summer heat make Death Valley a land of extremes. Yet, each extreme has a striking contrast. Towering peaks are frosted with winter snow, but the valley bottom can reach almost 130°F in summer. While rainstorms may be uncommon, they bring many dramatic changes to the landscape. Join instructor Alessandro Grippo in the exploration of the geology and landscape of Death Valley. This course takes the students through the geologic highlights of Death Valley National Park. The class meets at Furnace Creek Visitor Center on Friday morning and, after an introduction to the geology of the Basin and Range desert and its natural physical processes, students will travel south by car to hike the Natural Bridge trail. They will then head back to the valley bottom to explore the playa lake at Badwater, with further stops during the day at Devils Golf Course and Artists Palette. On Saturday, the class will meet at Stovepipe Wells, from where the students will visit Devils Cornfield and then wander through the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes. After lunch, students will hike and explore Mosaic Canyon. Finally, on Sunday, the class will drive to the westernmost part of the park by entering the Panamint Valley and later go for an easy hike at Darwin's Falls to complete their exploration. Participants will need to acquire lodging within Death Valley as soon as possible. We have reserved a group campsite for those who wish to camp. Non-camping accommodations include Stovepipe Wells Village Hotel. **Don't wait to make your reservations!** Please contact us for more information. **Class size limited to 8 participants!**



Joshua Tree Master Naturalist Certificate

IF YOU LOVE observing nature and learning about Joshua Tree National Park, expand your knowledge through the Joshua Tree Master Naturalist Series. Comprehensive courses on key Joshua Tree topics are designed to broaden your understanding of the ecology, plants, geology, wildlife, and history of the park. Through field-based excursions and lectures, you'll cultivate observation skills that are the hallmark of a good naturalist. When you complete eight courses of your choice, you will receive your "Joshua Tree Master Naturalist" certification. Certification may be completed over time. These courses are approved for credit from UC Riverside Extension, but credit is not required for the certificate.

Complete eight courses to receive your Joshua Tree Master Naturalist certification.

Course Name	Spring	Fall	Comment
Biological Soil Crusts in Joshua Tree National Park	✓		
Birds of Anza Borrego		✓	
Birds of Joshua Tree National Park	✓		
Birds of the Mojave	✓		
Birds of the Eastern Mojave: Spring Migration	✓		new in 2022
Citizen Science: Phenological Monitoring in Joshua Tree National Park	✓		
Desert Invertebrates: Diversity Great and Small - A Macro Photography and Microscopy Primer		✓	
Desert Snakes: Mystery and Intrigue		✓	
Desert Tortoise Conservation Biology	✓		
Ecology of Joshua Tree National Park	✓		
Flora of Joshua Tree National Park	✓		
Geology and Geomorphology of Death Valley		✓	
Geology: Creation of the Joshua Tree Landscape		✓	
Insects and Arthropods of the Eastern Mojave	✓		new in 2022
Insects and Arthropods of the Morongo Basin		✓	
Rocks and Minerals of Joshua Tree National Park	✓		

Guided Hikes

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Hike the Indian Trail Loop

NEW

Date/Time: Saturday, September 25, 7:30 am - late afternoon
Meet at: Pioneertown Preserve
Fee: \$35 JTNPA member, \$45 non member
Instructor: Travis Puglisi, Hike Leader
Hike Level: Moderate/Strenuous - 7.5 miles round trip
1000' elevation gain/loss



Approximately 7.5-mile loop hike exploring the Pioneertown Preserve Indian Trail Loop, which contains historically year-round riparian corridors and serves as a critical wildlife corridor connecting the San Bernardino National Forest and the recently designated Sand to Snow National Monument with Joshua Tree National Park. Participants should expect outstanding views from Chaparral Peak (5,541') of ridgelines rising to the highest peak in Southern California (San Geronio 11,503') to the west while also being able to see clear into Joshua Tree National Park to the southeast.

Hike The Covington Coaster

NEW

Date/Time: Saturday, October 30, 7:30 am - late afternoon
Meet at: 8737 Paradise View Rd., Yucca Valley
Fee: \$35 JTNPA member, \$45 non member
Instructor: Travis Puglisi, Hike Leader
Hike Level: Moderate, 9 miles round trip
1704' elevation gain/loss



This approximately 9-mile hike takes participants along a largely gravity-assisted trek over established trails beginning near Eureka Peak (5,518') and casually descending nearly 1000'. The hike starts with a "front row" view of peaks San Geronio (11,503') and San Jacinto (10,833). Its middle provides an "end of the world" view as the fortress of the Little San Bernardino Mountains that make up much of the boundaries of JTNPA sharply fall away into the Coachella Valley. The final leg of the journey winds through Lower Covington Flats.

Summit Queen Mountain

Date/Time: Saturday, November 13, 7:00 am - late afternoon
Meet at: Geology Tour Rd and Park Blvd, JTNP
Fee: \$35 JTNPA member, \$45 non member
Instructor: Travis Puglisi, Hike Leader
Hike Level: Strenuous/Difficult, 8.5 miles round trip
1,356' elevation gain/loss



This roughly 8.5-mile out and back hike brings participants into the rugged terrain surrounding Queen Mountain (5,677'), the second tallest peak in Joshua Tree National Park. Much like its taller sister, Quail Mountain, Queen ties together several distinct zones, each providing opportunities to discuss history (mining and

homesteading and prominent geological features). From the dramatic vantage point of the peak, we'll get a bird's-eye view of the Wonderland of Rocks to the west, the landscape that helped carve 49 Palms Canyon and led to the formation of its Oasis, as well as long views east towards the Colorado Desert where the Coxcomb Mountains greet us on the horizon at the park's furthest eastern boundary.

Hiking In the Shadow of Quail Mountain

NEW

Date/Time: Saturday, December 11, 7:00 am - late afternoon
Meet at: 6573 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree
Fee: \$35 JTNPA member, \$45 non member
Instructor: Travis Puglisi, Hike Leader
Hike Level: Moderate/Strenuous, 9.5 miles round trip
1005' elevation gain/loss



Joshua Tree National Park's highest peak, Quail Mountain (5,816'), is a feature that dominates much of the landscape in the park's western reaches. Connecting no less than four distinct zones of JTNPA (Covington Flats, East Deception Canyon, Lost Horse Valley, and the Quail Wash corridor), the areas surrounding the peak also connect the present to the past by containing several observable signs of early settlers. Examples include Lost Horse Ranger Station, formerly a private residence, Johnny Lang Canyon, and other notable homesteads. This hike will be mostly cross country, with occasional use made of roads, both existing and abandoned.

Hike the Boundary Lands

NEW

Date/Time: Saturday, December 18, 7:30 am - late afternoon
Meet at: La Contenta Dr. and Juarez Rd, Yucca Valley
Fee: \$35 JTNPA member, \$45 non member
Instructor: Travis Puglisi, Hike Leader
Hike Level: Strenuous, 7.5 miles round trip
1,450' elevation gain/loss



Approximately 8-mile loop hike exploring the washes and canyons surrounding Nolina Peak along with the flora, fauna, and land management curiosities that exist within. Set on lands managed by both the Mojave Desert Land Trust and Joshua Tree National Park, this route will expose participants to Joshua Tree woodland habitat, upper elevation oak, and pinyon environments, and the rocky channels that connect the two. Within the elevation lows (3,711') and highs (4,796'), a huge range of fauna can be encountered, including jackrabbit and coyote, golden eagles, great horned owl, mountain quail, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. The flora will change rather dramatically as the elevation rises and descends. Several species of cacti, impressive Parry's Nolina, notable scrub oak, and pinyon pine displays will be encountered.

Wilderness Wellness

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Hiking My Feelings: Stepping into the Healing Power of Nature

Date/Time: Friday, October 22, 3 pm - 8 pm
Saturday, October 23, 8 am - 8 pm
Sunday, October 24, 8 am - 2 pm
Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
Fee: \$170 JTNPA member, \$180 non member
Instructors: Sydney Williams
Hike Level: Moderate



When we take time to disconnect from the distractions, we can reconnect with ourselves. With Hiking My Feelings, every hike is an opportunity to come home to yourself, release the stories that are no longer serving you, and stand tall in your truth. Join us for a judgment-free weekend where transformational healing is possible. We introduce participants to mindfulness and the healing power of nature, and the results are lasting improvements to mental, physical, and spiritual health. This is more than learning how to set up a tent; this is wilderness wellness. Through guided self-discovery exercises, in-the-field education, physical movement, and storytelling, we heal and transform our relationship to self so we can show up more powerfully for our communities. We know that when there are spaces where vulnerability is recognized as a strength and empathy is the norm, deep healing is possible. Everything we do is designed to support participants as they embark on this journey to blaze their own trail to self-love.



Blaze Your Own Trail To Self-Love: Tell Your Inner Critic to Take a Hike

Date/Time: Friday, November 19, 3 pm - 8 pm
Saturday, November 20, 8 am - 8 pm
Sunday, November 21, 8 am - 2 pm
Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
Fee: \$170 JTNPA member, \$180 non member
Instructors: Sydney Williams
Hike Level: Moderate



Join author and founder of Hiking My Feelings, Sydney Williams, to learn how to start a meaningful gratitude practice and how doing so can enrich all aspects of your life, increase resiliency, and aid in processing complex emotions and situations. Over the course of the retreat, you'll learn about limiting beliefs and discover how to develop a healthy relationship with your Inner Critic to overcome adversity and bring your whole self to life, love, and work. When we take time to disconnect from the distractions, we can reconnect with ourselves. With Hiking My Feelings, every hike is an opportunity to come home to yourself, release the stories that are no longer serving you, and stand tall in your truth. Join us for a judgment-free weekend where transformational healing is possible. We introduce participants to mindfulness and the healing power of nature, and the results are lasting improvements to mental, physical, and spiritual health.

Hiking My Feelings: Using Mindful Movement to Open the Flow of Creativity

Date/Time: Friday, December 3, 3 pm - 8 pm
Saturday, December 4, 8 am - 8 pm
Sunday, December 5, 8 am - 2 pm
Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
Fee: \$170 JTNPA member, \$180 non member
Instructors: Sydney and Barry Williams
Hike Level: Moderate



Have you been taking time for yourself to reflect on what you really want? Are you stuck in a creative rut? Are you ready to make 2022 your Year of Creative Exploration? Sydney and Barry Williams have been hiking and brainstorming for years, and it has revolutionized the way they live their lives and the way they do business. By combining mindset techniques acquired as a Division 1 athlete, competitive skydiver, and corporate executive, incorporating playful techniques from improv ("yes, and!"), and encouraging mindful movement, they've developed a personal reflection format to help you unlock your best ideas, open the flow of creativity, and improve your mental, spiritual, and physical health. Join us for a judgment-free weekend where transformational healing is possible. We introduce participants to mindfulness and the healing power of nature, and the results are lasting improvements to mental, physical and spiritual health.

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Creative Arts Courses



Photo by Scott Klinger

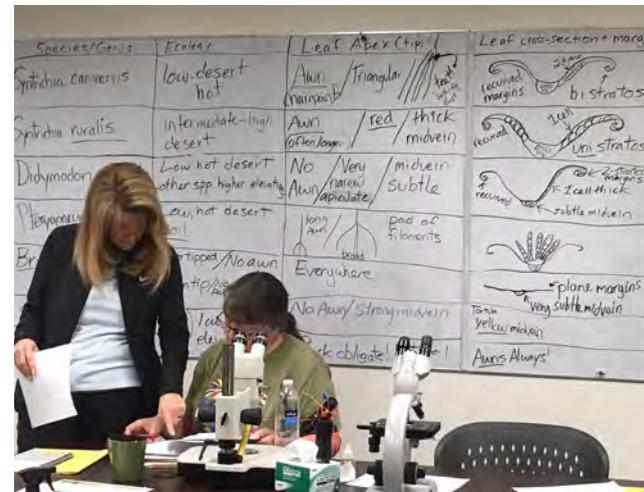
Mastering Landscape Photography

Date/Time: Friday, September 24, 7 pm - 9 pm
Saturday, September 25, 5 am - 6 pm
Sunday, September 26, 5 am - 3 pm
Meet at: Oasis Visitor Center
Fee: \$170 JTNPA member, \$180 non member
Instructor: Ralph Nordstrom, Photographer, Instructor
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



What goes into making a great landscape photograph? You can find scores of articles that promise you will master landscape photography in 10 steps or take your photography to the next level in 5 steps or shoot like a pro in 7 steps. These articles keep on appearing. And most offer valid tips. But it's not that easy. We can't promise you that you will be a master landscape photographer at the end of this course. What we can promise is you will have a much clearer idea of what is involved in pursuing this journey. We will provide practical guidelines on the gear you need and how to get the most out of it, the creative use of exposure and sharpness, the use of composition and light to create a mood or convey what inspired you to take the photograph, the magic that happens in the digital darkroom, and how to unleash the artist within you.

This class offers an optional but exciting camping experience in the pristine Lost Horse Campground. Contact the Desert Institute for more information on the camping option.



This was hands down the best class I have ever taken. That was due to your thorough knowledge of the subject and willingness to share. Thank you!

Keys Ranch Nightscape Photography Workshop

Date/Time: Saturday, August 7, 5:30 pm - midnight
Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
Fee: \$160 JTNPA member, \$170 non member
Instructor: Scott Klinger, Nightscape Photography Instructor
Hike Level: Easy



With new digital camera technologies, nighttime has become the right time to make spectacular images! Unlock your creativity and take your photography to a new place in this one-night workshop with professional photographer and professor Scott Klinger. The course will cover photographic techniques after dark, including wide-field astro-photography, light painting, and light drawing. Learn how to photograph the night sky with your DSLR camera. Light painting and light drawing are photographic techniques in which images are made using long shutter speeds as the photographer uses a hand-held light source, such as a flashlight, to create the exposure. The photographer either points the light source directly at the camera to "draw with light" or "paints with light" by shining the light source on an object or scene to create the illumination. From Ansel Adams to Pablo Picasso, these seemingly magical techniques have long inspired photographers and artists alike with their ability to make visible the invisible and to play with time.

This class will take place in the access restricted historic Keys Ranch and participants have the opportunity to photograph the cosmos among the historic ranch buildings and artifacts. This class is **limited to 8 participants**, so sign up early!

This class will be repeated on Saturday, September 4, and October 9 . Please sign up for the correct class.

Creative Arts Courses

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Capturing Joshua Tree Landscapes with Acrylics

Date/Time: Saturday, October 16, 8:30 am - 4 pm
Meet at: Black Rock Nature Center, Yucca Valley
Fee: \$85 JTNPA member, \$95 non member
Instructor: Janis Commentz, Artist, Instructor
Hike Level: Easy



Spend a day painting in beautiful Joshua Tree National Park. Few destinations offer a landscape as unique as Joshua Tree National Park. In this one-day class, you will focus on observation, setting an intention for the day, and learning the process of acrylic landscape painting. Janis Commentz is known for her color-intense palette and loose brush strokes. The morning will begin with basic instruction on the process and introduction to materials. Topics include laying out your palette, color mixing, translating your observations into a painted image, tips for lights and darks, and planning a successful composition. Participants will move outdoors to observe, sketch, and learn what to look for in a potential landscape. Both group and individual instruction will help you develop your painting and explore new techniques.

The desert is a fragile environment, and eco painting techniques will be used. Please note that the class will follow Leave No Trace principles, and all painting and clean-up supplies must be removed from the park.



Painting by Janice Commentz

Photographing the Hi-Desert

Date/Time: Saturday, November 6, 8 am - 5 pm
Meet at: Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Fee: \$85 JTNPA member, \$95 non member
Instructor: Craig Fucile, Photographer, Instructor
Hike Level: Moderate



This class is sponsored by the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve.

Grab your camera and put on your hiking boots for this intensive all-day photo shoot in Joshua Tree National Park! Craig Fucile will guide the class in seeing the natural beauty of the park through the camera lens. The class will begin with early morning light at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, followed by a mid-morning instructional program at Black Rock Canyon Visitor Center. The afternoon session will relocate to a special "photographers only" session at Keys Ranch, focusing on how to capture the buildings and historic remnants at this remarkable homestead. Fucile will share tips on how to record unique rock formations and vast views of the park. Participants are encouraged to bring a tripod with their camera(s). This class is **limited to 12 participants**, so sign up early!

Contemporary Art of Joshua Tree

Date/Time: Sunday, November 14, 9 am - 5 pm
Meet at: Joshua Tree Community Center
Fee: \$130 JTNPA member, \$140 non member
Instructors: Bernard Leibov, Director of BoxoPROJECTS
Maria Myrick, Noah Purifoy Foundation
Hike Level: Easy



Joshua Tree and environs are well known for the burgeoning artist community that has been drawn here. The local contemporary art scene is vibrant and a healthy companion to the music community that has flourished in the area. Bernard Leibov, Director of BoxoPROJECTS, takes us through his highlights of the local cultural scene. After an introduction and orientation in the classroom, Bernard will take us on the road to visit several of the interesting art sites in the area, including:

- a special docent-led tour of Noah Purifoy Outdoor Museum
- a visit to the public sculptures at A-Z West, the experiment in living by Andrea Zittel
- lunch and a tour at BoxoPROJECTS, home to a residency program as well as the Joshua Treenial
- studio visits with local artists
- experience one or two of the High Desert Test Sites projects being presented
- cap the day off with a stop at Art Queen and local art galleries

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Creative Arts Courses

Photographing Joshua Tree by Moonlight

Date/Time: Friday, November 19, 6 pm - 10 pm
 Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
 Fee: \$85 JTNPA member, \$95 non member
 Instructor: Craig Fucile, Photography Instructor
 Hike Level: Moderate



Seeing the desert illuminated by moonlight is an experience not to be missed. It's a chance to encounter a quiet world of deep shadows and pale highlights, perceived by the eye as a soft-edged, nearly black and white landscape, where a familiar scene in daytime can start to look mysterious. The sky, absent all but the brightest stars and planets, attains a steely darkness. Yet as our eyes adapt to the dim light, we can notice the subtle beauty of the desert under moonlight. In this evening field class, you'll learn useful photographic techniques such as camera placement, focusing, exposure, lens settings, and composing the photograph. Craig Fucile, photography instructor at University of California Riverside Extension, will guide and assist participants in making moonlight photographs at two locations in the park, away from city lights. Participants should bring a tripod and remote (or wireless) switch for their camera. Don't miss this opportunity to find new ways to focus on Joshua Tree National Park.



I began taking Desert Institute classes for professional development purposes. I immediately fell in love with every aspect from the expertise of the instructors, to the attentiveness of the volunteers and the high quality and variety of subjects the classes cover! Every class has exceeded my expectations. I have a new found appreciation and sense of wonder for not only Joshua Tree National Park, but also the desert. These classes continue to inspire me to share with my students some of the wonders and wildlife that JTNP and the desert have to offer. There are many classes I have yet to take and I look forward to the adventures that are yet to come!

Winter Light: Photographing the Desert Preserves

Date/Time: Saturday, December 4, 8 am - 4 pm
 Meet at: Whitewater Exit off of Highway 10
 Fee: \$85 JTNPA member, \$95 non member
 Instructor: Craig Fucile, Photography Instructor
 Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



Join us for a day of photography in two special desert places off the beaten track: Whitewater Preserve and Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve. From the Whitewater River to McCallum pond in an oasis of California fan palms, you'll experience the beauty of water in the desert. Winter is an excellent season to photograph the low desert, with its cool temperatures, longer shadows, and views of distant peaks.

The day consists of photographic field sessions, group instruction and one-on-one assistance from your instructor. Your questions will be answered! You'll learn tips and techniques for controlling sharpness, exposure, making panoramic photographs, and using lenses, along with creative exercises in photographing the desert landscape. Class begins in the morning, close to the rugged cliffs of Whitewater Preserve. After lunch, we will relocate to the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve for the afternoon field session. Hiking at each preserve is easy-to-moderate; we'll be walking on trails that are mainly level. Participants are encouraged to bring a tripod with their camera(s).

Military Scholarships

Through a grant provided by the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Military Spouses' Association, the Desert Institute offers a limited number of scholarships for our educational programs to active and retired Marines and their family members on the 29 Palms MCAGCC. For more information and qualification requirements, contact us at:
desertinstitute@joshuatree.org



Customized Programs

If your group, large or small, is searching for a special Joshua Tree National Park experience tailored to your interests, the Desert Institute will design an educational class just for you. We'll ensure that the activity level and optional field component will perfectly match your needs for one-day or multi-day excursions.

Day with a Desert Naturalist

Learn the secrets of Joshua Tree National Park in an all-day field class with a desert naturalist. Groups will explore the unique landscape of the park focusing on an area of interest to them. Common topics to be covered are geology, cultural history, flora, and ecology found in the vast valleys, rock mazes, desert cactus gardens, and Joshua tree forests. Most programs cover eight miles at a moderate pace with uneven terrain and moderate elevation gain. A sample day with a Desert Naturalist could include **Discover the Wonderland of Rocks**.

The Wonderland of Rocks is a large labyrinth of granite formations and meandering corridors. It's an easy place to get lost, but it's also full of secret, picture-postcard settings, panoramic vistas, and any number of natural surprises. Spend an enjoyable day hiking and scrambling through this rare place, feeling the rough texture of its timelessness underfoot and in the fingertips. More than just a day of outdoor adventure, this Desert Institute hike includes introductory instruction in how the Wonderland formed, why it looks the way it does, and how this unique environment helps support a diverse and interesting community of plants and animals. Come prepared to hike seven to ten miles, depending on conditions, with occasional stops for rest, lunch, and teachable moments. The route is cross-country and requires some scrambling and rock-hopping, none of it extended or technical.



PROGRAM COST

1/2 Day (up to 4 hours) \$300 for the first 4 people;
\$30 per person thereafter

Full day (7-8 hours) \$475 for the first 4 people;
\$45 per person thereafter

The park has some of the darkest night skies in Southern California, making Joshua Tree a stargazer's paradise. We now offer star gazing programs for small groups.



General Information

REGISTRATION

You may register by phone, fax, mail, or online at joshuatree.org. Please register early, our classes have limited sizes.

COURSE INFORMATION PACKET

Upon receipt of your registration, we will send you a course itinerary, map, enrollment confirmation/entrance fee waiver, and information on clothing and equipment needs. Local lodging and camping information is available upon request.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you need to cancel, notify us at least seven days prior to the start of the course, and we will process your request minus a \$25 cancellation fee. **No refunds, transfers, or credits will be granted if cancellation occurs within the seven-day period.** Please note that we cannot make any exceptions to this refund policy for any reason, including but not limited to medical reasons, illness, travel delays, personal situations, emergencies, or weather. This program depends on registration for its funding. While inconvenient, please understand that this policy enables us to sustain our programs even with last-minute cancellations.

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS

Before participating in any of the field activities provided by the Desert Institute, and as a condition to being accepted for such activities, you must sign, for yourself and for your minor child who is a participant, a waiver and release of claims, including of negligence, arising from your or the minor's enrollment or participation. Your information is confidential. Participants must provide their own health and accident insurance. Please obtain a doctor's clearance if you have any condition that may impact your ability to participate in a class.

DISCOUNTS

There is a \$10 discount per class for JTNPA members, including those who join when they register.

SAFETY, INSURANCE, AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

Every effort is made to ensure Desert Institute courses are safe. However, participants are responsible for their own safety and accident insurance. JTNPA does not accept responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged property or any bodily injury incurred during the courses. You must sign a liability waiver in order to participate in the courses. Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold.

CHILDREN AND PETS

Our courses are designed for adults. An adult must accompany children under 16; the minimum age is 14. Pets are not permitted on courses, on National Park trails, or unattended in vehicles.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

Credit is available from University of California, Riverside Extension. Optional credit courses are marked by the symbol found on page 3. The number of units are listed with each class. Credit fees are listed separately from noncredit fees. Credit units are based on a quarter system. Credit students may be required to successfully complete assignments or exams. Teachers may apply for Professional Career Development through their school district.

CAMPING AND PARK INFORMATION

Most campgrounds are first come, first served. Reservations are available for Black Rock and Indian Cove from October through May. Camping and fees for overnight courses held at Lost Horse Campground are included in registration. For other courses, campsites may be reserved online through recreation.gov. Campground fees will apply. Participants are responsible for their own accommodations and food. Visit the park website at nps.gov/jotr for more camping information.

WEATHER, CLOTHING, AND EQUIPMENT

Courses are held rain or shine. We reserve the right to change the course itinerary due to weather or other conditions. Students should be prepared for a variety of desert weather conditions, including cold and windy days. Appropriate clothing, footwear, and sun protection are very important. Clothing and equipment needs will be identified in your course information packet. Be prepared - bring plenty of water!



Desert Institute Volunteer Training

Desert Institute volunteers are the "heart and soul" of our outdoor education program. If you are interested in joining this large and dedicated team, you can take part in our next volunteer training program on August 28 & 29, 2021. Topics include:

- Joshua Tree National Park Association and Desert Institute overview
- Role of the volunteer in the Desert Institute program
- Volunteer responsibilities
- Job descriptions
- Pre-course/during/post-course checklists
- Emergency call guide/action plans/incident report
- Desert Institute program needs
- Risk minimization, group management, and safety management
- National Park Service emergency radio use and satellite radio use
- National Park Service volunteer protocols and guidelines
- Uniforms and ID badges
- First aid and CPR training



Photo by Richard Arnold

For more information, please contact: desertinstitute@joshuatree.org

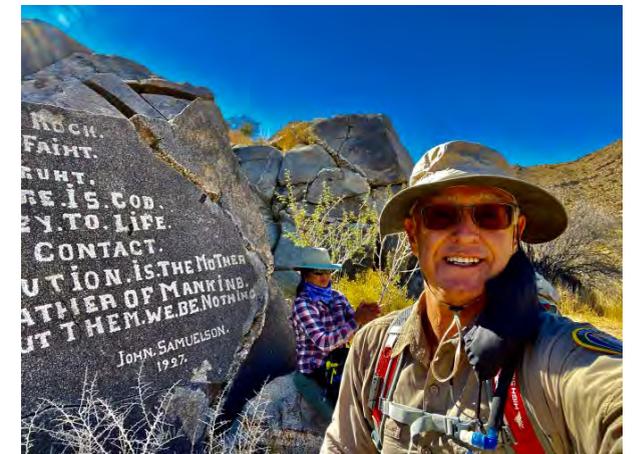


Photo by Bob Grubbs

I am a retired Park Ranger and I take my position as a lead volunteer very seriously because we are the right hand of the Desert Institute, and our student guests rely on us for their safety, our experience, and our knowledge of the Mojave Desert. I volunteer on many of the natural science classes, which gives me a chance to expand on my knowledge with our excellent teachers, and share my enthusiasm for the beauty of our amazing desert with all the students. I find volunteering with the Desert Institute incredibly rewarding.

I like the positive energy that I feel from both the participants and volunteers in our classes. We all have chosen to be there to enjoy our National Park's beauty and learn something in the process.



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The Desert Institute is committed to providing a rich, inclusive learning environment aimed at inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to appreciate and preserve cultural resources and natural places associated with Joshua Tree National Park and surrounding public lands.