

Find Your Next Adventure With The

DESERT INSTITUTE

Course Catalog Fall 2022

Photo taken with an iPhone by Rose Cefalu, instructor for the class,
A Beginners Guide to Incredible iPhone Photography, on page 13.



Welcome to the Desert Institute



The Desert Institute has provided education to adults for 21 years. We have expanded our vision statement to "providing a rich, inclusive learning environment aimed at inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds". To meet this goal, we have been facilitating educational day hikes for many organizations which includes international exchange students and Southern California organizations, such as Latino Outdoors. This provides us the opportunity to share our passion for our deserts through Leave No Trace principles and to how to Tread Lightly. We also teach these younger audiences how to explore the desert safely.

I would like to invite you to join me in our celebration of nature and to explore nature through our many classes listed in this catalog. There are camping programs for those who wish to spend a wondrous weekend with our great instructors and the Desert Institute volunteer team exploring geology, birding, photography, campfire cooking, and healing hikes. And, our programs will increase your knowledge of ecology, biology, and creative arts. We've got a class that'll make your dream weekend come true.

Kevin Wong
Director, Desert Institute
Joshua Tree National Park



Photo by Aileen Palma



Photo by Benny Lopez



Photo by Benny Lopez

Our event with the Desert Institute of the Joshua Tree National Park Association was absolutely perfect. We started off the day with a Joshua Tree Park Ranger who outlined the stewardship from the Indigenous groups in the area, and the importance of the connection between the general public and our National Parks. Afterwards our naturalist, Yanina Aldao Galvan, led us around the area and described the ethnobotany component of just one of the deserts in Joshua Tree. She was not only knowledgeable, but entertaining and relatable to the Latino Outdoors community. Our goal from Latino Outdoors was not just to inform the group about the local plants, but also foster a connection to our history and our culture. Yani was able to accomplish all of that, and more. JTNPA also helped us with food and transportation, so that we could continue to reduce barriers for Latinos to venture outside. Thank you JTNPA!

Fall 2022 Calendar

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Photos by Kevin Wong, unless credited otherwise.



CAMPING OPTION

* OFFERED FOR UNIVERSITY CREDIT

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 Desert**
- Insects and Arthropods of the Morongo Basin**
- Birds of Anza-Borrego**
- Beginning Bird Banding**
- 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.

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

"How-To" Classes

"How-To" Identify Animal Burrows

Date/Time: Sunday, September 18, 9 am - 1 pm
 Meet at: Black Rock Nature Center, Yucca Valley
 Fee: \$55 JTNPA member, \$65 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!



Photo by Pam Kersey

Wilderness Cooking School: Campsite Cooking

Date/Time: Saturday, October 29, 8 am - 4 pm
 Sunday, October 30, 7:30 am - 2 pm
 Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
 Fee: \$230 JTNPA member, \$240 non member
 Instructors: Emily Nielson and Mai-yan Kwan, Dirty Gourmet Camp Cooking Instructors
 Scott Klinger, Photography Instructor
 Lew Kingman, Hike Leader
 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 at the reserved Lost Horse Campground. 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 12, 8 am - 5 pm
 Sunday, November 13, 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 other course participants. Trade in your computer, cell phone, Instagrams, clocks, schedules and workplace jargon for an off-the-grid weekend with the girls - two days of pure unadulterated fun and education! Join Pam and Robin to learn about camping, camp cooking, hiking, journaling, and yoga while enjoying Joshua Tree National Park. This weekend of classes will be held at the Lost Horse Campground, a beautiful location that is perfect for this program! We will also be traveling to trails at times so you will need access to your car.

The campground is also reserved for Friday night, so if you wish to arrive the night prior to the workshop, please call us at 760-819-4714.

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!

Natural Science Courses

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Desert Snakes: Mystery and Intrigue*

(Biology x414.51, 0.5 unit)

Date/Time: Sunday, September 25, 9 am - 4 pm
Meet at: Black Rock Nature Center, Yucca Valley
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!

Birds of the Mojave Desert*

(Biology x404.2, 2 units)

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 20, 7 pm - 8:30 pm
Saturday, September 24, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm
Sunday, September 25, 7:30 am - 12:30 pm
Meet at: Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx
Noncredit Fee: \$285 JTNPA member, \$295 non member
Credit Fee: \$415 JTNPA member, \$425 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 with a Zoom meeting, 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) and meals. Upon enrollment, you will be sent detailed information about the Center and what to bring.

Insects and Arthropods of the Morongo Basin*

(Entomology x405.1, 1.5 unit)

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 4, 7 pm - 8:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 8, 8 am - 2 pm, 6 pm - 8:30 pm
Sunday, October 9, 8 am - 12 pm
Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor 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.

Birds of Anza-Borrego*

(Biology x404.9, 1.5 units)

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 18, 7 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturday, October 22, 7:15 am - 5 pm
Sunday, October 23, 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 weekend class explores the oases in and around the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, 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 Desert 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.

Natural Science Courses

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Geology of Amboy Crater

Date/Time: Saturday, November 5, 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 in 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.



Geology of the San Andreas Fault

Date/Time: Saturday, November 19, 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!



Photo by Bob Grubbs

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 JTNPA 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!

Beginning Bird Banding*

(Biology x404.4, 1 unit)

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 16, 6 pm - 8 pm
Saturday, November 19, 7:30 am - 1:30 pm
Sunday, November 20, 7:30 am - 1:30 pm
Meet at: Whitewater Preserve
Noncredit Fee: \$145 JTNPA member, \$155 non member
Credit Fee: \$195 JTNPA member, \$205 non member
Instructor: Stephen Myers, Wildlife Biologist and Ornithologist
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



This course is a basic introduction to banding birds, a valuable tool in ornithological research and monitoring. An evening class session at Whitewater Preserve on Wednesday, November 16 will briefly discuss the history, purpose, goals, and methods of banding. Among the topics will be the federal and state permits required of bird banders, the submittal of data to the Bird Banding Laboratory, capture methods, the handling of wild birds, banding birds, the collection of morphological data, and the sexing and ageing of birds. This evening class session will be followed by two days of hands-on experience capturing, handling, and banding birds in the field. The banding location will be in Riverside (directions will be included in the enrollment confirmation). All banding equipment will be provided.

Natural Science Courses

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Geology and Geomorphology of Death Valley*

(Geosciences x453, 2 units)

Date/Time: Friday, December 2, 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday, December 3, 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday, December 4, 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.



Photo by Chris Andersen

Geology: Creation of Joshua Tree Landscape

Date/Time: Saturday, December 3, 8 am - 5 pm
Sunday, December 4, 8 am - 2 pm
Meet at: Joshua Tree Park Headquarters, 29 Palms
Noncredit Fee: \$145 JTNPA member, \$155 non member
Credit Fee: \$210 JTNPA member, \$220 non member
Instructor: Ted Reeves, B.A., Professor of Earth Sciences, University of the Pacific
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



Investigate the natural architecture and origin of Joshua Tree National Park's landscape with Ted Reeves, earth science professor, University of the Pacific. Starting in the classroom on Saturday, participants will be introduced to basic geologic principles, including major rock groups, plate tectonics, mountain building, and the impact of weathering. Ted 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 and Sunday to observe and identify monzogranite, gneiss, aplite, and more. For those new to geology or experienced geologists, Ted Reeves will make learning about this complex and unique landscape comprehensible and fun.



Photo by Bob Grubbs

Birds and Other Wonders of the Salton Sea

NEW

Date/Time: Friday, January 20, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm
Meet at: Sam's Club Parking Lot, Palm Desert
Fee: \$85 JTNPA member, \$95 non member
Instructor: Kurt Leuschner, M.S., College of the Desert
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



We will spend the day exploring the Salton Sea with a focus on birds and natural history. The Salton Sea is an important migratory stop along the Pacific Flyway and many species choose to spend the winter here. We hope to see hundreds of Snow and Ross's Geese along with Sandhill Cranes and Burrowing Owls. In all, over 400 bird species have been recorded at the Salton Sea. We will try to find as many of them as we can as we car-caravan down the east side of the Sea. Along the way, you will also learn about the geology and human history of the Salton Sea including the current status. Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, a full tank of gas, a lunch, and drinks and snacks to last the day. Radios will be provided for car-to-car communication.

Cultural Courses and Events

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Discover the Art Murals of Twentynine Palms

NEW

Date/Time: Saturday, October 22, 9 am - 3 pm
Meet at: Joshua Tree Park Headquarters, 29 Palms
Fee: \$100 JTNPA member, \$110 non member
Instructor: Heather Clisby, Instructor, Tour Guide
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



As a gateway to Joshua Tree National Park, Twentynine Palms boasts wide-open vistas, the world's largest US Marine base, and a burgeoning local art scene resulting in 20+ murals and sculptures detailing the unique history of the city as well as the landscape and wildlife of the Mojave Desert. Known as "The Oasis of Murals," this outdoor art gallery features large-scale scenes of homesteader history, local characters, pivotal events, and the cities' inextricable ties to the military. Kick-starting a renaissance of this city in 1994, the Mural Project, sponsored by Action Council for 29 Palms, created twenty-five beautiful, historical artworks on the commercial buildings downtown—encouraging an art scene, visitor-friendly businesses, and a rebirth of community spirit. Join local guide and mural enthusiast, Heather Clisby, in exploring the murals' history along with guest muralists in this day-long class.

Archaeopalooza

Date/Time: Saturday, October 1, 9 am - 3 pm
Meet at: Bell Center at Copper Mountain College, 6162 Rotary Way, Joshua Tree
Fee: Free - preregistration requested

This event is sponsored by Copper Mountain Community College District.

Archaeopalooza is a free, family friendly program to celebrate California Archaeology Month and is a tribute to the Desert Institute's long-time instructor, Daniel McCarthy. There will be ongoing lectures on archaeological topics in the lecture hall along with 20 community outreach tables in the adjoining gymnasium. Programs for children include an archaeology "dig box", archaeological artifacts for "show-and-tell", a variety of games provided by rangers from Joshua Tree National Park, and pinch pot demonstrations provided by Tony Soares. This is a great event to teach young people about the science of archaeology and the native Americans who live in the Southern California deserts.



Photo by Bill Marchese

Practical Uses of Native California Plants

NEW

Date/Time: Saturday, September 17, 8:30 am - 4pm
Meet at: Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Fee: \$85 JTNPA member, \$95 non member
Instructor: Yanina Aldao Galvan, Ecologist
Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



Before humans developed agriculture and the agricultural practices we all know today, there was a better way. Humans used to be stewards of the land, they used to gently coax nature to thrive by channeling water to certain trees or plants. It was a practice that married foraging with horticulture. The way we extract food from nature today is the leading cause for climate change, soil depletion, and hunger in the world. By cultivating native plants in our gardens, not only do we help native pollinators and the soil, we also reduce the amount of water used, we prevent wild-fires, all while enjoying the gifts of fresh foods and cosmetics right at our fingertips. In this class, "Yani" will discuss and demonstrate uses of native California plants, including mesquite, creosote, nopal and prickly pears, manzanita, and ephedra.

Joshua Tree Writers Festival

NEW

Date/Time: Saturday, November 12, 9 am - 3 pm
Sunday, November 13, 8:30 am - afternoon
Meet at: Joshua Tree Retreat Center, Joshua Tree
Fee: \$25 for Saturday plus optional activities on Sunday

This event is sponsored by the Joshua Tree Retreat Center.

This event will be a celebration of writers, books, readers, and ideas inspired by our deserts and Joshua Tree National Park. Writers Ruth Nolan and Claire Vaye Watkins will be key note panelists along with an impressive group of writers who will read from their works. These writers include Caryn Davidson, Susan Rukeyser, Rahsaan Diaz, Chris Clarke, Gordon Johnson, and many more. This event will be held in the sanctuary of the Joshua Tree Retreat Center, which is an octagonal shaped room with wonderful acoustics. Registration includes access to three special programs on Sunday. These programs include an exploration of the petroglyphs of Coyote Hole, a special hike at the Pioneertown Preserve, and the outdoor class, Field Sketching for Non-Artists. Don't miss out on this wonderful week-end of writers, creative exploration, and outdoor adventures.



Guided Hikes

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Discover Pine City

Date/Time: Saturday, October 8, 7:30 am - late afternoon
 Meet at: Joshua Tree Park Headquarters, 29 Palms
 Fee: \$45 JTNPA member, \$55 non member
 Instructor: De Karlen, Hike Leader
 Hike Level: Easy/Moderate



This hike is just the hike for those still a little intimidated by Joshua Tree's vastness: easy, informative, and just the right length. Beginning at the Pine City backcountry board, this trail is less traveled and one of Joshua Tree's nicest "hidden" treasures. It's an architectural confection of Joshua Tree's famous high desert plants, its human history, and monster artful boulders, leading to an expansive view of the low desert. We'll have lunch in a nearby pinyon pine burst of greenery and shade, and then we will take an additional side-foray to the Desert Queen Mine, with a tale of its dramatic mining past.

This hike will repeat on **Sunday, October 23**. Be sure to register for the correct session.

Discover Contact and Anaconda Mines NEW

Date/Time: Sunday, November 6, 7:30 am - noon
 Meet at: Joshua Tree Park Headquarters, 29 Palms
 Fee: \$45 JTNPA member, \$55 non member
 Instructors: Pam Kersey, Hike Leader
 Tom Scanlan, Hike Leader
 Hike Level: Moderate



Join us for a day of exploring the mining history of Joshua Tree National Park. In this class, we will explore the Contact Mine, an abandoned mining site near the 29 Palms entrance. The moderate 3-mile out and back hike follows an old access road to the mine site. We will also explore the Anaconda Mine site located nearby. We will view old mining equipment, shafts, and other artifacts left from the time these mines were active. Our instructors will discuss the geologic forces that formed the area and we'll find out how the gold got deposited there in the first place. We will learn about the history of gold mining and processing as it was typically done in the American West.

*I **LOVED** this class! I showed my pictures to co-workers and they all said how dang happy I looked and they loved hearing about all my excitement!*



Photo by Bob Grubbs

Discover Lost Horse Mine

Date/Time: Sunday, December 11, 7:30 am - noon
 Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
 Fee: \$45 JTNPA member, \$55 non member
 Instructors: Pam Kersey, Hike Leader
 Tom Scanlan, Hike Leader
 Hike Level: Moderate



Join us for trip back to the California Gold Rush, Joshua Tree style. In this class, we will explore the Lost Horse Mine, a classic Western mill and mining site. The moderate 3.8-mile out and back hike follows an old freighter road to the remains of the wooden structure that once housed a 10-stamp mill. Our instructors will discuss the geologic forces that formed the area and we'll find out how that gold got deposited there in the first place. We will learn about the history of the Lost Horse mine, some of the colorful characters associated with it, and we'll learn about gold mining and processing as it was typically done in the American West.

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, please call 760-819-4714.

Wilderness Wellness

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Hiking My Feelings: Inner Wilderness Workshop

NEW

Date/Time: Friday, November 25, 3 pm - 8 pm
 Saturday, November 26, 8 am - 8 pm
 Sunday, November 27, 8 am - 2 pm
 Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
 Fee: \$170 JTNPA member, \$180 non member
 Instructor: Sydney Williams
 Hike Level: Moderate



When we take time to disconnect from the distractions, we can reconnect with ourselves. Every hike included in Inner Wilderness Workshop 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.



The Desert Institute and the Hiking My Feelings are a perfectly balanced partnership. I had already participated in one Hiking My Feelings retreat, and when the opportunity to camp in Joshua Tree National Park and reunite with Sydney and Barry came up, I signed up right away.

Hiking My Feelings: Trail of Life - Self Reflection Workshop

NEW

Date/Time: Friday, December 9, 3 pm - 8 pm
 Saturday, December 10, 8 am - 8 pm
 Sunday, December 11, 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



What have you survived and celebrated on your Trail of Life so far? How can you connect the dots on your lived experience to move into the new year with intention? 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 self-reflection format to help you unlock your best ideas, open the flow of creativity, and bring your best self to life, love, and work. 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



Photo by Scott Klinger

Keys Ranch Nightscape Photography Workshop

Date/Time: Saturday, August 27, 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, night time 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 astrophotography, 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 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!

Mastering Landscape Photography

Date/Time: Friday, September 30, 7 pm - 9 pm
Saturday, October 1, 5 am - 6 pm
Sunday, October 2, 5 am - 3 pm
Meet at: Joshua Tree Park Headquarters, 29 Palms
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.

Discovering Your Creative Vision Using Acrylics

Date/Time: Saturday, September 24, 8:30 am - 4 pm
Meet at: Black Rock Nature Center, Yucca Valley
Fee: \$100 JTNPA member, \$110 non member
Instructor: Janis Commentz, Artist, Instructor
Hike Level: Easy



Have you ever watched an outdoor painter at work and wondered “How do they do that?” Would you enjoy learning how to take your inner artist out “into the wild?” Let us help you streamline the process of “plein air” painting in Joshua Tree National Park using dramatic and vibrant acrylics to facilitate your creative vision. You'll learn how to frame a composition and capture challenging and ever-changing color and light conditions, mix and apply vibrant colors, and use methods customized for working in the arid Mojave Desert. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist you'll increase your ability to produce memorable work while enjoying the camaraderie of fellow artists in a beautiful desert setting.

Register Now!
Click On Class Name

Cyanotype Processing Workshop

Date/Time: Sunday, October 2, 10 am - 1 pm
Meet at: Rose Cefalu's Home, Joshua Tree
Fee: \$95 JTNPA member, \$105 non member
Instructor: Rose Cefalu, Photographer, Alternative Process Artist, Instructor
Hike Level: Easy



Join Joshua Tree-based photographer & artist Rose Cefalu for a half-day of experimental printmaking, known as Cyanotype printing. You will learn about the history of the process along with hands-on work producing fine art prints. Your images will be enlarged to 8 x 10 negatives and will be contact printed, harnessing the sun's UV light, and developed in water. You will also do the same process as a photogram, where the image is made without a camera by placing objects directly onto the surface of the light-sensitive cyanotype paper and then exposing it to light. The usual result is a negative shadow image that shows variations in tone that depend upon the transparency of the objects used. Sharing her wealth of knowledge, Rose will start with a brief overview of the process followed by paper coating and a walk in a private location in search of the objects and plant flora students can use photograms. Students will explore the power of image making using this 20th-century photograph technique in conventional and unconventional ways. No prior photography experience is needed, all levels welcome. All development materials and supplies are included in the course fee.

This class will repeat on **Sunday, November 6**. Be sure to register for the correct session.

A Beginners Guide to Incredible iPhone Photography

NEW

Date/Time: Saturday, October 29, 6 pm - 9 pm
Meet at: Desert Rose Studio, Joshua Tree
Fee: \$95 JTNPA member, \$105 non member
Instructor: Rose Cefalu, Artist, Instructor
Hike Level: Easy



Join Joshua Tree based photographer and artist, Rose Cefalu, for an evening of iPhone photography. We will meet at her workshop and organize a walk to a beloved trail location. Before leaving you will learn some of the awesome power of the iPhone. She will also talk about design basics, like “rule of thirds” and “perspective” to maximize the potential of images. The last hour of class we will edit your images in her workshop and print them 8.5 x 11 and mount them in a white beveled 11 x14 mat suitable for framing. Students will explore the power of image maximizing the iPhone in conventional and unconventional ways. No prior photography experience is needed, all levels welcome. All printing materials and supplies are included in the course fee.

This class will repeat on **Saturday, November 19**. Be sure to register for the correct session.

Field Sketching for Non-Artists

Date/Time: Saturday, November 5, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Meet at: Black Rock Nature Center, Yucca Valley
Fee: \$110 JTNPA member, \$120 non member
Instructor: Fran Calvert, Artist, Instructor
Hike Level: Easy



Would you like to enjoy the beauty of Joshua Tree National Park more fully? Are you a person who “could never draw?” This class will teach you the basics of field sketching, focusing on using the simplest most light-weight tools, methods, and materials to streamline the process for non-artists. You will learn how to focus your natural powers of observation to complete a finished sketch that is accurate in detail, scale, and proportion using easy-to-learn skills that you can practice anytime and anywhere. All materials are provided.



Plein Air Painting Workshop with Oils

Date/Time: Saturday, November 5, 7:30 am - 4 pm
Sunday, November 6, 8 am - 3 pm
Meet at: Joshua Tree Visitor Center
Fee: \$155 JTNPA member, \$165 non member
Instructor: Jessica Schiffman, Artist, Instructor
Hike Level: Easy



Painting the landscape from life is thrilling and can be challenging as well. The world is filled with an infinite variety of color and value, and an overwhelming amount of detail. Patterns of shadow and light are changing constantly. This workshop will help you to simplify and organize what you see, and go on to create satisfying, dynamic paintings with strong, logical dark and light patterns. Topics will include composition, focal point, perspective, value (dark and light), underpainting, painting alla prima (layering wet paint without making mud), color theory, mixing paint, and more. Each session will start with a demo painting as Jessica explains her step-by-step method. Students will be given individual feedback and guidance. Some previous painting experience will be helpful but not required.

This class will be conducted at the reserved Lost Horse Campground with the option to “car camp” with the instructor on Saturday night. Class registration includes camp site reservations (optional). For more information on camping with this class or a list of local accommodations, please contact us at 760-819-4714.

Creative Arts Courses

Register Now!
Click On Class Name



Photographing the Hi-Desert

Date/Time: Saturday, November 19, 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).

Photographing Joshua Tree by Moonlight

Date/Time: Saturday, November 5, 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 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.

Winter Light: Photographing the Desert Preserves

Date/Time: Saturday, December 3, 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).

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!

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



Photo by Benny Lopez

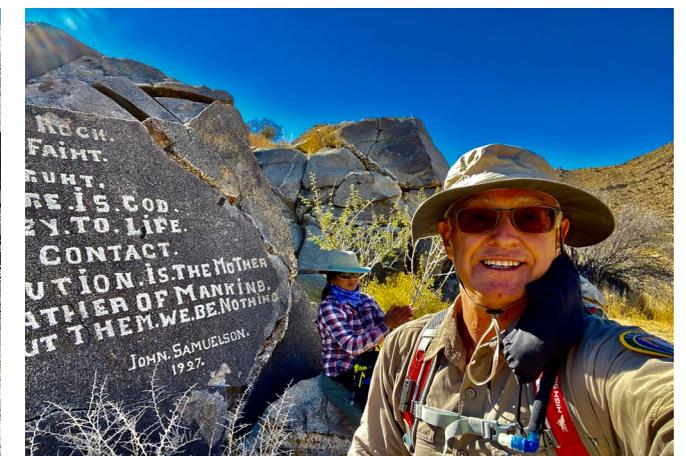


Photo by Bob Grubbs

The education we received from Ted Reeves was outstanding! Very informative and impressive the amount of knowledge given was outstanding!! I thoroughly enjoyed myself and was sad when the class ended.

Scott Klinger was very knowledgeable and accommodating to all levels of photographers, and was fun to shoot with a small group of people.

Rose Cefalu is a wealth of information and was so gracious in answering all our questions. As a novice artist, I especially enjoyed the "childlike wonder" of creating a very "forgiving" art form. Also, I appreciated being able, after the class, to share my art with friends & family.

General Information

REGISTRATION

You may register by phone, 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 27 & 28, 2022. 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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Joshua Tree National Park Association works in partnership with Joshua Tree National Park to help in its achievement of programming goals in education and interpretation, along with scientific and historical research and activities.



Photo by Bob Grubbs



Photo by Jason Curodeau



Photo by Chris Andersen

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.