

Archaeology of Joshua Tree National Park

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, October 26, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday, October 27, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Meet at: [Oasis Visitor Center](#)
74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Instructor: Daniel McCarthy, M.S., Anthropology

Overview

Discover the ancient peoples who were defined by the arid landscape of what is now Joshua Tree National Park. Anthropologist Daniel McCarthy, who has extensive experience leading archaeology field studies in Southern California, will discuss how archaeologists study human culture, history, and evolution through material remains and environmental landscapes. The class will begin with an archaeological overview including an exclusive visit to see the artifacts and archival collections at Joshua Tree National Park's Research Museum. The course will have two sessions in the field to study how landscapes relate to the prehistoric and historic peoples who lived in this area. The field sessions will require short hikes in the desert and will provide students with new insights into the park's cultural heritage.

Please note: The class will only visit publicly interpreted sites.

Itinerary

Saturday, October 26, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Oasis Visitor Center

- Orientation and introduction to the course
- Slide show / lecture
- **10:30 AM:** Visit the Joshua Tree National Park Curation Facility and Archives
- Lunch, **bring your own food**
- Walk around Oasis of Mara

Sunday, October 27, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Oasis Visitor Center

- Rock Art Slide Show / lecture
- Field trip carpooling and caravanning to: Coyote Hole
- Continue field trip: to Keys Ranch Historic Site and "Disney" site at Barker Dam as time allows.
- Lunch in the field, **bring your own food**
- Class concludes

What to Bring to the Course

Required for Class

Optional Equipment

- Hiking Poles
- Camera

The 10 Essentials: Everyday in the Desert

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Hiking boots with traction soles
- Lunch and snacks for each day
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Whistle

Fitness Requirements

Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold.

Hike Level

Easy

Guidelines

- You are responsible for your safety.
- Park your car in designated areas only. Parking along the side of the road is dangerous to you and the environment.
- Rattlesnakes are present in the park. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biographies

DANIEL MC CARTHY, M. S., Anthropology, has worked at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Joshua Tree National Park, San Bernardino National Forest and throughout Southern California compiling photographic inventories of the rock art of this region. Formerly he was the Director of the Cultural Resources Management Department for four years with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and spent 18 years on the San Bernardino National Forest as archaeologist and Tribal Relations Program Manager. His research interests include desert archaeology, Native American uses of plants, aboriginal trail systems, material culture of the Cahuilla and Serrano Indians and rock art.

Suggested Reading

Bean, Lowell J. *Mukat's People; the Cahuilla Indians of Southern California*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1972.

Bean, Lowell J. "Cahuilla." In *Handbook of North American Indians*. Volume 8, California, pp. 575-587. Robert F. Heizer (editors) Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1978.

Bean, Lowell J., and Harry W. Lawton. *The Cahuilla Indians of Southern California*. Banning, CA: Malki Museum Press, 1979.

Bean, Lowell J., and Charles R. Smith. "Serrano." *Handbook of North American Indians*. Volume 8, California, Robert F. Heizer, editor, pp. 570-574. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1978.
Heizer, Robert F. "Trade and Trails." *Handbook of North American Indians*. Volume 8, California. Robert F. Heizer (editor), Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1978.

* The Desert Institute staff/instructors will attempt to accommodate participant's needs; however we reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.

Rattlesnake Room Directions

Coming from the west on Hwy 62, turn right(south) on Utah Trail Rd, drive past the JTNP Oasis Visitor Center and immediately after the brown "Pay Entrance Fee 3 miles ahead" sign turn right into the south side parking lot. Look for the "Service road Employees only" sign, and park in the dirt lot. The classroom is to the left of the "Resources/Conference Room Building 103" sign.

