

Photographing the Hi-Desert

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, November 23, 8 AM – 4:30 PM

Meet at: [Big Morongo Canyon Preserve](#) (click on the link for a map to the meeting site)
11055 East Dr, Morongo Valley, CA

Instructor: Craig Fucile, Photography Instructor, University of California, Riverside Extension

Overview

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).

Itinerary

Saturday, November 23, 8 AM

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

- 8 am — Meet in preserve parking lot. Instructor discusses class schedule and format, park rules and personal safety. Photographic field sessions along Marsh Trail and Mesquite Trail.
- 9:45 am — 10:30 am Break Time, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve picnic area.
- 10:30 am — Car caravan to Keys Ranch.

Keys Ranch

- 11:30 am — 1:30 pm Field session at Keys Ranch.
- 1:30 pm — Leave for Lost Horse Campground

Lost Horse Picnic Area

- 1:45 pm — 2:30 pm Lunch break; **bring your own food and drink**
- 2:30 pm — 3:30 pm Topics: outdoor photography techniques, improving exposures, photographic composition. Field session in the area.
- 3:30 pm — Leave for sunset field session in Lost Horse Valley.

Lost Horse Valley

- 3:45 pm — Photography at sunset using flash to augment a near subject.
- 4:30 pm — Class ends.

Instructional Methods

1. Lecture
2. Demonstrations
3. Example photographs
4. Instructor assisting participants

Participant Activities

1. Making photographs
2. Learning from their camera
3. Questions and answers
4. Creative exercises

What to Bring to the Course

Required Class Materials

- At least one camera (or film camera)
- At least one lens
- Tripod
- Remote switch or cable release for camera
- Extra camera battery and memory card
- **Your camera user manual**

Optional Class Materials

- Circular polarizer
- Lens shade
- 10 photos on a laptop, display device or as prints, that you have questions about.
- Materials for taking notes

The 10 Essentials: Everyday in the Desert

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Hiking shoes with traction soles
- Lunch and snacks
- 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

Moderate

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 Biography

Craig Fucile, B.A., Physical Geography, currently teaches photography for University of California, Riverside Extension. He has also taught for UC Irvine Extension, UC Santa Cruz Extension, University of La Verne, the Sierra Club and Friends of Photography. A long time instructor, Fucile has taught numerous photography workshops in western landscapes that he enjoys photographing including: Joshua Tree, Death Valley, Eastern Mojave, Owens Valley, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Anza-Borrego, Kings Canyon, Sequoia. During Fall 2017 he was an artist in residence for Angeles National Forest/ San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. He received the Fall 2010 Instructor Excellence Award from UC Riverside Extension and the 2007 Distinguished Instructor Award from UC Irvine Extension.

Suggested Reading

Joshua Tree Desert Reflections, by Stephen Trimble. Can be purchased at the Visitor Centers or online at joshuatree.org/store

* 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.