

at Joshua Tree National Park

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
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Queen Mountain West

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, December 14, 7:30 am – Late Afternoon
Meet at: [Oasis Visitor Center](#)
74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA
Instructor: Kevin Powell, Joshua Tree Hiking Guidebook Author

Overview

Venture forth to the remote and seldom visited, west side of Queen Mountain where water has carved the underlying quartz monzonite rock in to a series of sculpted, polished potholes and other unique natural features similar to its down stream counterpart, Rattlesnake Canyon. Along the way, participants will get a unique view of the expansive and complex Wonderland of Rocks that lies below. The hike leader will also point out important geologic landmarks that may prove useful on future hikes that participants may choose to do on their own. **Of special note: This hike is entirely off-trail and involves short sections of easy to moderate rock scrambling.**

Itinerary

Saturday, December 14, 7:30 am – Late Afternoon

Oasis Visitor Center

- Introduction
- Caravan to the trailhead
- Field class
- Lunch/snack break, **bring your own food**
- Field class

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- 7.5" USGS Queen Mountain and Indian Cove quads
- Compass/GPS device
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Field guides

Suggested Reading:

- *John Sowell, Desert Ecology, University of Utah Press, 2001*
- *Bruce Pavlik, The California Deserts, University of California Press, 2008*

The 10 Essentials: *Every day in the Desert*

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes - No sandals or equivalent
- Lunch and snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- 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

Strenuous. Approximately 8.5 miles with a total elevation gain of 600 feet.

*People attending this hike **must be in good physical condition** and comfortable spending the day covering up to 8.5 miles through some of the most beautiful terrain the park has to offer as well as several sections of rock scrambling. Please call if you have questions concerning your hiking and or **rock scrambling** abilities.

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 desert. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see them.
- Only you know your limits, please let the instructor or Desert Institute Representative know if you do not want to continue. This is a long hike; only go if you are confident in your balance and scrambling skills.
- 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

KEVIN POWELL, Local Author and Photographer was intrigued at an early age by the quiet complexity of this unique desert playground. As a result of this intrigue, he has spent forty-six years hiking, rock climbing, photographing and exploring within Joshua Tree National Park. His first book, *40 Classic Day Hikes of Joshua Tree National Park*, is available at Park Visitor Centers and through local retailers.

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