

“How-To” Survive in the Desert

Information

Date/ Time: Sunday, February 17, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Meet at: [Joshua Tree Visitor Center](#)
6554 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree, CA
Instructor: Kelly Crawford, Owner, Joshua Tree Excursions

Overview

The ultimate goal of survival training is to prevent survival situations from occurring in the first place. However, when survival is unavoidable, mindset, skills and improvisation are key. Learn the essential considerations needed to safely explore the sometimes harsh and often challenging desert landscape of Joshua Tree National Park. This workshop will provide an introduction to the fundamental thought processes, skills and knowledge needed to survive in desert regions and the hazards associated with desert travel. In this field class at Lost Horse Campground, students will become familiar with survival considerations, decision making processes, (what works, what doesn't and why). Concepts such as starting a fire, emergency shelters, water procurement, signaling, an overview of heat and cold-related injuries, hazards, and survival kits for car and backpack, will also be discussed. Kelly Crawford will teach the physical skills, tools and mental processes that will help prepare participants to safely discover some of the most beautiful and most dangerous habitats of the world; and survive, should it become necessary. The class will also emphasize that failing to plan or prepare and over-reliance on personal digital equipment (GPS and cell phones) can lead to catastrophic results. Learn how to be self-reliant and not become a Search and Rescue statistic.

Itinerary

Sunday, February 17, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Joshua Tree Visitor Center Visitor Center

- Caravan to field location, Lost Horse Campground
- Field class
- Lunch/snack break, **bring your own food**
- Field class

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- Knife
- Hiking poles

The 10 Essentials: Everyday in the Desert

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

Provided Class Materials

- Survival materials to use in class

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.
- **You will be using sharp tools that can harm you. Please pay close attention on the proper use of these tools.**
- 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.
- 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

KELLY CRAWFORD is the founder/CEO of Joshua Tree Excursions. He served honorably in the U.S. Army National Guard and the United States Marine Corps for 23 years. The bulk of his time in the service was spent with the USMC as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician. Kelly has travelled extensively around the world exploring and discovering the hidden wonders of our amazing environment. He lives by the motto that, "Life is a journey and not a destination." He possess a wealth of leadership experience, is an avid outdoorsman and an expert in survival, navigation and backcountry expeditions.

Suggested Reading

Tony Nester, *Desert Survival Tips, Tricks, and Skills* and is available for purchase at [Joshua Tree National Park Association](#)'s online 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.