

Rock Art of Southern California: From Palms to Pines

Information

Date/ Time: Sunday, February 17, 8 am – 6 pm

Meet at: [Pilot Travel Center](#) (click on link for a map of the meeting site)

SW corner of I-10 and N. Indian Canyon Drive

6605 N. Indian Canyon Drive, North Palm Springs, CA 92258

Instructor: Daniel McCarthy, M. S., Anthropology, Director, Cultural Resources Management Department, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Overview

Discover the mystery of the enigmatic symbols left behind by the Indigenous Peoples with Archaeologist, Daniel McCarthy. McCarthy will lead participants on an ancient path that provides a glimpse into the life of the Native Nations through pictographs and petroglyphs preserved in stone. This one-day field class will carpool from the Coachella Valley out to Corn Springs into the Salton Sea area and up to Idyllwild and include trips to at least three archaeological sites. Participants will not only have the thrill of seeing rock carvings and paintings in their original setting but will learn what is known of their stories. Class discussions will focus on the people who made these images, how they were created, and their importance to those who created them and to us today. This is a great opportunity to see these images and ponder their significance with an expert archaeologist. The class will also learn about the seasonal patterns across the landscape of the Native Peoples, their places of habitation, and the reason they traveled. **Participants will drive about 200 miles during the class.** Carpooling is recommended.

Itinerary

Sunday, February 17, 8 am – 6 pm

Pilot Travel Center

- Introduction
- Field class at Corn Springs
- Lunch break, **bring your own food**
- Field class at Cahuilla Fish Traps
- Field class at Idyllwild Rock Paintings

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- Camera

The 10 Essentials: Every day in the Desert

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes
- 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

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 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

Daniel McCarthy, M. S., Anthropology, has worked at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Joshua Tree National Park, and throughout Southern California compiling photographic inventories of the rock art of this region. He has served as District Archaeologist for the San Jacinto Ranger District and acting Forest Archaeologist for the San Bernardino National Forest where he was the Tribal Relations Program Manager for 17 years. His research interests include desert archaeology, aboriginal trail systems, and rock art. McCarthy also conducts southern California Native American cultural awareness classes providing information about native plant uses, rock art, and material culture.

* 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.

