

Explore Ruby Lee Mill

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, March 2, 7 am – Late Afternoon

Meet at: [Oasis Visitor Center](#)

74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA

Instructor: Kevin Powell, Guidebook Author, Photographer

Overview

Tucked away in the remote Hexie Mountains is an old mining related mill site known as the Ruby Lee. Long abandoned and infrequently visited, this moderate, six mile hike will explore a classic desert wash, then, follow a barely discernable old mining road up to the actual mill site. Along the way the hiker will be treated to views of the vast Pinto Basin and the rugged Pinto and Coxcomb Mountains. If the wildflowers are blooming, the area could be ablaze with color and provide for good birding opportunities. Once at the mill site, there will be a brief discussion of the mills origin and history.

Itinerary

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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 Porcupine Wash quad
- Compass
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Field guides

The 10 Essentials: Every day in the Desert

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

Moderate - 6 miles round trip

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 has spent forty six years hiking, rock climbing, photographing and exploring within Joshua Tree National Park. His first book, Classic Day Hikes of Joshua Tree Park will be available this spring.

* 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.