

Explore the Pinto Basin Sand Dunes

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, March 16, 8 am – Late Afternoon

Meet at: Cottonwood Visitor Center

74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA

Instructor: Kevin Powell, Guidebook Author, Photographer

Overview

Located within the vast Pinto Basin and at the base of the impressive Pinto Mountain is a unique area known as the Pinto Basin Sand Dunes. Enjoy a slow paced, all cross country hike over lightly undulating sandy terrain to this, the largest set of “sand dunes” found within the Park. Once at the dunes, there will be a brief discussion of how the dunes were formed. This is a great place for desert wildflower viewing including the possibility of seeing the elegant and aromatic Desert Lily. Desert tortoise may also be seen as well as signs of the nocturnal desert kit fox.

Itinerary

Saturday, March 16, 8 am – Late Afternoon

Cottonwood 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

Easy - Moderate - 3 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.