

DESERT INSTITUTE

at Joshua Tree National Park

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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Spring Session

2019

Fine Art Photography in Joshua Tree National Park

Information

Date/ Time: Friday, March 22, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday, March 23, 5:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Sunday, March 24, 25:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Meet at: [Oasis Visitor Center](#) (click the link for a map to the meeting site)

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Instructor: Ralph Nordstrom, photography workshop leader & fine art landscape photographer

Overview

Immerse yourself in the wonders of Joshua Tree National Park and connect with the enchantment to be found there. And what better way to explore the essence of fine art photography than in such a spectacular location. Our class will explore three elements of fine art photography – the nature of art, the artistic process and how to grow as an artist. The weekend schedule includes two (2) sunrise shoots, two (2) morning shoots, one (1) sunset shoot, one (1) optional night sky shoot (when conditions permit). There will be three classroom sessions - an orientation Friday night, the discussion on “The Essence of Fine Art” Saturday and an opportunity for share your photographs Sunday afternoon. Our experience of this marvelous land will be enhanced by camping in the secluded Lost Horse Campground away from the public campgrounds, from Friday through Sunday. This is an “action packed” workshop, so, bring your camera equipment, camping gear and enthusiasm and watch your creativity soar!

Note: Arrangements will be made for those preferring to sleep with something more substantial over their heads than rip-stop nylon. Make your accommodation arrangements in Twentynine Palms. We will coordinate meeting times, locations and directions Friday night before our first sunrise shoot.

Note: The focus in this class is on fine art. The class does not emphasize beginning photography skills. However, we will be glad to work with you on your skills. Just ask.

Itinerary

Friday, March 22		
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Meet and greet, orientation	Joshua Tree National Park Oasis Visitor Center
9:00 pm	Set up camp	Lost Horse Campground
Saturday, March 23		
5:30 am – 8:00 am	Sunrise shoot (arrive at the location by 6:15 am; sunrise @ 6:44 am)	Cholla Garden (bring sack breakfast)
8:00 am – 11:00 am	Morning shoot	White Tank campground (arch and other wonders)
11:00 am – 12:00 noon	Lunch	Oasis Visitor Center
12:00 noon – 3:00 pm	The Essence of Fine Art	Oasis Visitor Center
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Sunset shoot (arrive at the location by 5:30 pm; sunset @ 6:58 pm)	To be determined
8:00 pm	Dinner	Joshua Tree
Sunday, March 24		
5:15 am – 8:00 am	Sunrise shoot (arrive at the location by 5:45 am; sunrise @ 6:43 am)	Sheep Pass (or other suitable location – bring sack breakfast)
8:00am – 10:00am	Morning Shoot	Ryan Mountain Trailhead
10:00am – 11:00am	Break camp	Lost Horse Campground
11:00 am – 12:00 noon	Lunch (bring sack lunch)	Oasis Visitor Center
12:00 noon – 3:00 pm	Photo sharing and review	Oasis Visitor Center

Note: We will carpool to all our shooting locations to avoid excess traffic in the park. Also, above times are approximate. The final itinerary will be passed out during orientation Friday night.

What to Bring to the Course

Required Class Materials

- Digital Camera
- Tripod
- Lenses (zoom and/or prime lenses that range from wide angle to telephoto)
- Filters (optional)
 - Polarizer
 - Graduated Neutral Density
- **Your camera user manual**
- Extra batteries
- Extra memory cards
- Camera bag
- Remote shutter release
- Lens cleaning cloths or tissues
- Headlamp

Optional Class Materials

- Laptop computer with image processing software (e.g., Lightroom)
- Thumb drive

- GPS
- Trekking Poles

Camping Materials

- Tent
- Sleeping bag
- Foam pad, blow up mattress and/or cot
- Water (there is no water in the park or in our campground)
- Food
 - Sack breakfasts for Saturday and Sunday
- Lantern
- Flashlight (your headlamp will do just fine)
- Trash bags
- Toiletries and towel

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

Fitness Requirements

Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert environment that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold.

Hike Level

Easy to moderate

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 park. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see.

- 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

Ralph Nordstrom: Nature has always been a source of inspiration, adventure and rejuvenation for me. Leaving the city and venturing into the wilderness always fills me with anticipation and excitement. The wilderness is fulfilling in and of itself. Adding photography to the experience, especially approaching photography with the eye of an artist, makes the encounter even richer. Because, in art we attune ourselves to our personal response to the beauty we see and attempt to communicate our unique vision through our works. The journey into fine art photography is a venture into a heightened awareness of our surroundings and can also be an odyssey of self-discovery. It is this journey that thrills me as much as my best photographs.

Suggested Reading

These two blog posts sum up the spirit of this course.

Making a Photograph – The Four Pillars

<http://ralphnordstromphotography.com/wordpress/articles/making-photograph-pillars/>

Taking Your Photography to the Next Level

<http://ralphnordstromphotography.com/wordpress/journal/photography-level-2/>

* 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.