

Hike Murray Canyon in Palm Springs

Information

Date/ Time: Sunday, April 7, 8 am – mid-afternoon
Meet at: [Starbucks](#) (click on link for a map of the meeting site)
682 S. Palm Canyon Dr. Palm Springs, CA
Instructor: De Karlen, Naturalist, Desert Guide

Overview

A beautiful, easy-to-moderate, 4-mile hike in the Indian Canyons of Palm Springs, also known as the Seven Sisters hike. This hike lies within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument, co-managed by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the federal government. We'll travel on an ancient hunting and gathering trail, through native California Fan Palms, willows, wildflowers, and cacti, following Murray Creek through a series of seven ponds (Seven Sisters), ultimately reaching a 12-foot waterfall. The hike will include interpretation as well. **Wear shoes you don't mind getting wet** – and, bring a snack for resting in the shade by the waterfall. Enrollment includes entrance fee to the preserve.

Itinerary

Sunday, April 7, 8 am – mid-afternoon
Starbucks, 682 S. Palm Canyon, Palm Springs

- Introduction
- Caravan into the preserve
- Field class
- Lunch/snack break, **bring your own food**
- Field class

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- Camera
- Binoculars

- Field guides

Suggested Reading:

- *John Sowell, Desert Ecology, University of Utah Press, 2001*
- *Bruce Pavlik, The California Deserts, University of California Press, 2008*

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

Moderate – 4 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.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biography

De Karlen is a naturalist, hiking and desert guide with Desert Adventures. Previously, she worked as an Interpretive Park Ranger in Yosemite National Park so she truly enjoys sharing her knowledge about the wonders and processes of our natural world.

* 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.