

Hike to the Wonderland of Rocks Overlook

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, November 14, 7:30 am – Early Afternoon

Meet at: [Joshua Tree Visitor Center](#) (click on link for a map of the meeting site)
6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, CA

Instructor: Kevin Powell, Joshua Tree Hiking Guidebook Author

Overview

The jumbled mass of the Wonderland of Rocks covers twelve square miles of intriguing landscape. On this mostly off trail, out and back cross-country hike, we will walk to a high vantage point that overlooks this vast and complex geologic wonder. Fine views of the upper Queen Valley along with Quail Mountain, the Parks high point, and Mount San Jacinto and San Gorgonio Mountain will be had as well. If luck is with us, Desert Bighorn sheep might be observed on some of the rocky outcroppings that are found along our infrequently traveled path.

Itinerary

Saturday, November 14, 7:30 am – Early Afternoon

Joshua Tree Visitor Center

- Introduction
- Caravan to the trailhead
- Field class
- Snack break, **bring your own food**
- Field class

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- 7.5" USGS Queen Mountain quad
- Compass/GPS device
- 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-**No sandals or equivalent**
- 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 – 4 miles Round Trip 600 feet of overall elevation gain over varied and sometimes rocky terrain. *Please call if you have questions concerning your rock scrambling/hiking abilities.*

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. 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, Local Author and Photographer was intrigued at an early age by the quiet complexity of this unique desert playground. As a result of this intrigue, he has spent forty-six years hiking, rock climbing, photographing and exploring within Joshua Tree National Park. His first book, *40 Classic Day Hikes of Joshua Tree National Park*, is available at Park Visitor Centers and through local retailers.

* 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.