

Discover Pine City

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, November 21, 8 am – afternoon

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

74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA

Instructor: De Karlen, Naturalist, Desert Guide

Overview

This hike is just the hike for those still a little intimidated by Joshua Tree’s vastness: easy, informative, and just the right length. Beginning at the Pine City backcountry board, this trail is less traveled and one of Joshua Tree’s nicest “hidden” treasures. It’s an architectural confection of Joshua Tree’s famous high desert plants, its human history, and monster artful boulders, leading to an expansive view of the low desert. We’ll have lunch in a nearby pinyon pine burst of greenery and shade and then take an additional side-foray to the Desert Queen Mine, with a tale of its dramatic mining past.

Itinerary

Saturday, November 21, 8 am –afternoon

Oasis Visitor Center, Twentynine Palms

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

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- 7.5” USGS Queen Mountain quad
- Compass
- 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 type of footwear
- 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

Easy to Moderate – 4.3 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.
- 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.