

at Joshua Tree National Park

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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Discover the Wonderland of Rocks

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, December 5, 7:30AM – Early Afternoon
Meet at: [Joshua Tree Visitor Center](#) (click on the link for a map)
6554 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree, CA 92252
Instructor: Kevin Powell, author, photographer

Overview

The jumbled mass of the Wonderland of Rocks covers twelve square miles of intriguing landscape. On this mostly off trail, cross country hike we will explore historical sites, be exposed to geologic oddities in the form of arches, patterns of patina rock patches resembling ancient figurines, a mosaic wall of quartz and the classic Astro Dome and “Fang Rock”. Bighorn Sheep may be sighted as well. Please come prepared for some easy rock scrambling as we navigate through uneven, rocky terrain during the exciting exploration of this unique and special landscape.

Itinerary

Saturday, December 5, 7:30AM – Early Afternoon

Joshua Tree Visitor Center

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

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- 7.5” USGS Indian Cove quad
- Compass
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Field guides
- Hiking poles

The 10 Essentials: Everyday in the Desert

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Hiking boots with traction soles - No sandals or equivalent type of footwear
- 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 – 5 miles round trip with 400 feet of elevation gain and loss over some loose, rocky or uneven 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. 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, 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.

Suggested Readings

Desert Ecology, University of Utah Press, 2001, by John Sowell

The California Deserts, University of California Press, 2008, by Bruce Pavlik

* 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.