

## Pinto Wye Arrastra

### Information

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Date/ Time: Saturday, February 29, 8 am – Noon

Meet at: [Oasis Visitor Center](#) (click on the link for a map to the meeting site)  
74485 National Park Dr Twentynine Palms, CA

Instructor: Kevin Powell, Joshua Tree Hiking Guidebook Author

### Overview

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Enjoy a slow paced, all cross country hike over lightly undulating terrain to an historic mining related mill site, known as an arrastra. This arrastra, the only surviving one in the Park was used to mill gold ore in to a final product that could then be sold to the United States Mint or used to purchase other goods or services.

The wooden arrastra, which was probably built and used in the 1930's, has been partially restored and maintained by the Park service and is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

### Itinerary

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Saturday, February 29, 8 am – Noon

*Oasis Visitor Center*

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

### What to Bring to the Course

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#### *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**

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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**

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Easy. 2 miles round trip with an overall elevation gain of 100'. Of special note: The hike is all off-trail and involves walking over sandy terrain.

## **Guidelines**

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- 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**

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Kevin Powell 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 Park

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is available in the Joshua Tree Visitor Centers.

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\* 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.