

Geology of Mojave National Preserve

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, March 14, 9 am – 5 pm

Sunday, March 15, 9 am – 4 pm

Meet at: [Hole in the Wall Campground - Mojave National Preserve](#)

Instructor: Ted Reeves, B.A., Biology, Instructor at University of the Pacific

Overview

From the swirling sands of Kelso Dunes to Hole-in-the-Wall's violent volcanic remnants, Mojave National Preserve serves as a showcase of ancient and modern geologic processes. Rocks here reveal the stories of prehistoric landscapes as old as 2.7 billion years - over half the age of the Earth! Explore and learn about the geology of the vast Mojave National Preserve with Ted Reeves, on this over-night camping excursion with a base camp at the Hole-In-The-Wall campground. You will need to provide your own camping equipment, food and drinks as there are few facilities in this national preserve. This class will take you to spectacular locations within the Mojave National Preserve including the newly re-opened Mitchell Caverns. Course fee includes the entrance fee for the caverns. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

Itinerary

Saturday, March 14, 9 am – 5 pm

- meet at Hole in the Wall Visitor Center for a short orientation talk
- Field Class
- Lunch/snack break, **bring your own food**
- Field Class at the Mitchell Caverns
- Dinner, **bring your own food**

Sunday, March 15, 9 am – 4 pm

- Field Class
- Lunch/snack break, **bring your own food**

- Field Class

What to Bring to the Course

Camping Equipment – Be prepared for the possibility of cold weather!

- high-clearance vehicle if possible
- 3 or 4 Season Tent
- Sleeping Pad
- Warm Sleeping Bag
- Pillow
- Layers of clothing for both warm and cold weather
- Firewood and Kindling
- Camp Chair
- Lantern, Flashlight and/or Headlamp
- Cooking Necessities (e.g. stove, propane, pots, plates, cups, utensils)
- Matches
- Cooler
- Food and Drink

Optional Class Materials

- Camera
- Binoculars
- pen, paper

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

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 park. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see.
- 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.

Suggested Reading

- Mojave National Preserve web site: <http://www.nps.gov/moja/index.htm>
- "Walking the East Mojave" by McKinney and Rae; HarperCollins West, 1994.
- "California Desert Flowers" by Morhardt and Morhardt; Univ. of California Press; 2004.
- "Introduction to California Desert Wildflowers" by Munz; Univ. of California Press; 2004.

Instructor Biography

Ted Reeves, B.A., Biology, has taught Biology and Geology at Chaffey High School in Ontario, CA for 37 years. He has led field trips in Southern California, Yosemite, Yellowstone, the Tetons, Grand Canyon and Hawaii. He is presently teaching for University of the Pacific and believes that a relevant Natural History class requires an outdoor experience.

* 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.