

Quail Springs Wash: Water in the Desert

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, March 21, 7:30 am – Mid Afternoon

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

Instructor: Kevin Powell, Joshua Tree Hiking Guidebook Author

Overview

Water in the desert has always been a key link to success and survival. On this mostly off trail, cross country hike we will explore some historical water sources in the form of a still functioning well and a cistern that was once fed by a now dry spring and used as a public water source. On our return we will pass by the historically significant Samuelson Rocks with its inscriptions of late 1920's philosophy carved into the brown varnished boulders. As an added bonus, the Quail Wash and surrounding area is particularly good for spring wildflowers.

Itinerary

Saturday, March 21, 7:30 am – Mid 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 – 7 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.
- 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 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 is available in the Joshua Tree Visitor Centers.

* 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.