

Hike the Indian Trail Loop

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, September 25, 7:30 am – Late Afternoon
Meet at: [Pioneertown Preserve](#) (click on link for a map of the meeting site)
51010 Pipes Canyon Road, Pioneertown
Instructor: Travis Puglisi, Hike Leader

Overview

Approximately 7.5 mile loop hike exploring the Pioneertown Preserve Indian Trail Loop, which contains historically year round riparian corridors and serves as a critical wildlife corridor connecting the San Bernadino National Forest and the recently designated Sand to Snow National Monument with Joshua Tree National Park.

Participants should expect outstanding views from Chaparrosa Peak (5,541'), of ridgelines rising to the highest peak in Southern California (San Gorgonio 11,503') to the west while also being able to see clear into Joshua Tree National Park to the southeast. There will be several opportunities to discuss fire ecology as the largest fire to burn in the Morongo Basin region in the last quarter century covered much of this terrain (Sawtooth Fire Complex, 2006, 61,700 acres). There is also a great deal of cultural relevance the hike contains a homestead known as the Olsen Ruins as well as this being a notable corridor used by the Serrano Tribe as it moved between the upper elevations of the present day San Bernadino National Forest and lower elevations descending all the way to the Colorado River.

This trail features a delightful array of terrain and is considered a moderate hike.

Itinerary

Saturday, September 25, 7:30 am – Early Afternoon
Pioneertown Preserve Ranger Station

- Introductions
- Safety Check
- Field Class
- Snack Break
- Field Class
- Lunch

- Field Class

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- 7.5" USGS Rimrock CA quad
- Compass/GPS device
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Field guides

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, 9.5 miles round trip. 1005' Elevation Gain/Loss. Very limited rock scrambling, with most elevation gain happening in a very gradual fashion. *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. 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

TRAVIS PUGLISI is a 20 year resident of the Morongo Basin and the owner/operator of Wandering Mojave Hiking Services. Travis has a cultivated appreciation of desert environments, having lived and worked in Antarctica for 27 months, at UC Riverside's Granite Mountain Desert Research Station as a steward and trail builder, and the Black Rock Desert of Nevada. Travis is a self-taught naturalist with an emphasis on Mojave Desert flora and fauna. His hikes feature a conversational style that makes the landscape accessible and an interpretive manner of route planning that typically combines established trails and cross-country travel.

* 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.