

Hike the Covington Coaster

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, October 30, 7:30 am – Late Afternoon

Meet at: [8737 Paradise View Rd. Yucca Valley](#) (the home of Travis Puglisi)

Instructor: Travis Puglisi, Hike Leader

Overview

This approximately 9 mile hike takes participants along a largely gravity assisted trek over established trails beginning near Eureka Peak (5,518') and casually descending nearly 1000'. The hike starts with a "front row" view of peaks San Gorgonio (11,503') and San Jacinto (10,833). Its middle provides an "end of the world" view as the fortress of the Little San Bernadino Mountains that make up much of the boundaries of JTNP sharply fall away into the Coachella Valley. The final leg of the journey winds through Lower Covington Flats.

Participants will explore topographical features that illustrate the flow of water and how that shapes the land. This watershed observation will connect hikers with locations well beyond their geographical location. Pinyon pine and scrub oak will give way to cactus and juniper and Joshua trees. Hikers will also pass Joshua Tree forests containing some of the largest known examples of the species anywhere within the park, both living and dead. Also visible will be sections of mixed Joshua trees and junipers that burned over 25 years ago and have since found themselves in a process of natural re-development.

Itinerary

Saturday, October 30, 7:30 am – Early Afternoon

[8737 Paradise View Rd. Yucca Valley](#)

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

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- 7.5" USGS Joshua Tree South 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 miles round trip. 1704' Elevation Loss. *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.