

Summit Queen Mountain

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, November 13, 7:00 am – late afternoon
Meet at: [Geology Tour Road and Park Blvd, in Joshua Tree National Park](#)
Instructor: Travis Puglisi, Hike Leader

Overview

This roughly 8.5 mile out and back hike brings participants into the rugged terrain surrounding Queen Mountain (5,677'), the second tallest peak in Joshua Tree National Park. Much like its taller sister, Quail Mountain, Queen ties together several distinct zones, each providing opportunities to discuss history of the early settlers and prominent geological features.

From the dramatic vantage point of the peak we'll get a birds eye view of the Wonderland of Rocks to the west, the landscape that helped carve 49 Palms Canyon and led to the formation of its Oasis, as well as long views East towards the Colorado Desert where the Coxcomb Mountains greet us on the horizon at the park's furthest eastern boundary.

A fascinating array of granite and gneiss are present as are abundant lithophyte colonies growing upon these rocks. A tremendous amount of land within view is designated as "Day Use" as Bighorn Sheep regularly travel this zone and utilize it as a sanctuary.

Itinerary

Saturday, November 13, 7:00 am – late afternoon

Pine City Backcountry Trailhead

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

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- 7.5" USGS Queen Mountain quad
- Compass

- 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
- 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

Strenuous, Difficult, approximately eight and a half miles with rock scrambling throughout route

People attending this hike **must be in good physical condition and comfortable spending the day **rock scrambling** as well as covering up to ten miles through some of the most beautiful **rocky terrain** the park has to offer. 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. This is a long hike; only go if you are confident in your balance and scrambling skills.
- 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, Owner/Operator and Lead Guide for Wandering Mojave Hiking Services, is a 20 year resident of the Mojave Desert and logs nearly 200 miles annually on foot within the boundaries of Joshua Tree National Park. Over the years and miles, Travis has cultivated an awareness of landscape, ecological systems, and local culture that when contextualized by the trail becomes a story he is committed to sharing with new and returning park visitors.

* 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.