

Hike the Boundary Lands

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, December 18, 7:30 am – Late Afternoon

Meet at: [La Contenta Dr. and Juarez Rd, Yucca Valley](#) (click on link for a map of the meeting site)

Instructor: Travis Puglisi, Hike Leader

Overview

Approximately 8 mile loop hike exploring the washes and canyons surrounding Nolina Peak along with the flora, fauna, and land management curiosities that exist within.

Set on lands managed by both the Mojave Desert Land Trust and Joshua Tree National Park, this route will expose participants to Joshua Tree woodland habitat, upper elevation oak and pinyon environments, and the rocky channels that connect the two. Within the elevation lows (3711') and highs (4796') a huge range of fauna can be encountered, including Jackrabbit and Coyote, Golden Eagles, Great horned owl, mountain quail, mule deer and bighorn sheep. The flora will change rather dramatically as the elevation rises and descends. Several species of cacti, impressive Parry's nolina, notable scrub oak, and pinyon pine displays will be encountered.

While much of the hike will feel remote, there will be regular reminders of how public lands and private lands interface over time, as illustrated by the residential starting point, the MDLT managed trail head, mid-zone that contains private inholdings within Joshua Tree National Park, and the hikes conclusion which moves through land currently managed by the MDLT.

This hike will be a mostly cross-country hike on durable surfaces, except for portions where roads, both active and discontinued, will be utilized. This hike will be labeled as moderately strenuous and does include maneuvering around and over rocks. Participants will encounter opportunities for shaded rest throughout much of the hike.

Itinerary

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La Contenta Dr. and Juarez Rd., in Yucca Valley

- Introductions

- Safety Check
- Field Class
- Snack Break
- Field Class
- Lunch (bring your own 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

Suggested Reading

Suggested Reading/Listening

- <https://www.mojavewatch.org/post/california-desert-protection-and-recreation-act-becomes-law-protects-nearly-half-a-million-acres>
- <https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190312/trump-signs-legislation-protecting-ohv-areas-federal-land-in-mojave-desert>

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, 7.5 miles round trip. 1450' Elevation Gain/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.