

at Joshua Tree National Park

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Emory's Garden: Camping in the Backcountry

Information

Date/Time: Saturday April 23, 2022 4:30pm - Sunday April 24, 2022 6pm

Meet At: [California Riding and Hiking Trail Wilderness Board](#)

Instructor: Travis Puglisi

Overview

All experience levels are welcome on this 26-hour excursion to the a part of Joshua Tree National Park that I like to call "Emory's Garden." I take this name for the high density of Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryii*) that grows in the flood planes extending to the southwest from the Contact Mine Trailhead. The presence of the lavender, along with Desert Senna (*Senna armata*) make this a particularly fragrant zone that presents much more like the Colorado Desert than the Mojave. The three dayhikes will feature massive channels cut into the floodplain, a stunning variety of cactus, and an exploration of one of the principal canyons feeding the watershed. Emphasis will be given to best practices when backcountry camping, including but not limited to; meal planning, water management, camp setup, and the minimization of impact on wilderness areas.

Itinerary

April 23, 2022

- 1600: Meet at [California Riding and Hiking Trail Wilderness Board](#)
 - Introductions
 - Kit Review
 - Safety Check
 - LNT Talk
- 1655: Hike starts / Flora talk
- 1830: Arrive at backcountry camping zone
- 1845-1930: Set Camp
- 1930-2030: Dinner and Settle Into Camp
- 2045-2130: Night Sky Viewing

April 24, 2022

- 0602: Sunrise
- 0645: Breakfast
- 0800-1330: Day Hike A: Canyon Exploration
 - Lunch on the trail
- 1345-1445: Self-Directed Time at camp
- 1500-1645: Day Hike B: Exploring the force of water through alluvial deposits
- 1700: Regroup, Strike Camp, LNT Sweep
- 1800: Back at vehicles

What to Bring to the Course

The 10 Essentials

- 50 liter backpack or larger
- 2 gallons water
- Food for 26 hrs in the backcountry
- Closed-toe hiking shoes-no sandals or equivalent type of footwear
- Long pants
- Clothing layers
- Sun Hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook/pencil
- Whistle

Optional Class Materials

- 7.5" USGS Queen Mtn. Quad
- GPS Device / Compass
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Field Guides
- iNaturalist and Merlin Apps

Suggested Reading/Listening

- [Geology of Joshua Tree National Park with Tor Lacey](#)
- <http://cali49.com/jtnp/2013/10/22/contact-mine>

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

Easy/Moderate, Variable distance based on interests. This should be considered a low-mileage backpacking trip. The maximum achievable distance would be 12.5 miles spread out over the 26hrs, but this is flexible and easily trimmed to suit individual needs.

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 of your balance and scrambling skills
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put, and blow your whistle
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out notify 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.