

at Joshua Tree National Park

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Fare Thee Well, Spring!

Information

Date/Time: Saturday June 18, 2022 8am - 5pm

Meet At: [Instructor's Home](#)

Instructor: Travis Puglisi

Overview

Say "Goodbye," to the spring season with this hike in one of the most accessible yet beautiful canyons in Joshua Tree National Park. This hike will explore the upper ranges of the Smith Water Canyon watershed between Lower and Upper Covington Flats. This area features beautifully foliated granitic rock from the Late Cretaceous in addition to xenoliths that are much older (Jurassic Period). The quality of the rock and the nature of the watershed contributes to a very "kinetic" sense of the rock being in motion. Encounters with blooming Desert Willow, Desert Willow, and Mojave Mound Cactus are likely.

Itinerary

June 18, 2022

- 0800: Meet at [Instructor's Home](#)
 - Introductions
 - Safety Check
- 0830: Shuttle to Lower Covington Flats Day Use Area
- 0910-1630
 - Hike
 - Hydration/Snack/Rest Break
 - Talks on Flora, Fauna, Geology
- 1700: Back at [Instructor's Home](#)

What to Bring to the Course

The 10 Essentials

- Day Pack
- 1 gallon water

- Lunch and snacks
- 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 Joshua Tree South Quad
- GPS Device / Compass
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Field Guides

Suggested Reading/Listening

- [Geology of Joshua Tree National Park with Tor Lacey](#)
- https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/jotr1/hrs.pdf
- **Growing Up in the Desert Queen Ranch by Willis Keys**

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 to Moderate, Maximum 5.25 miles round trip. 350' Elevation Gain/Loss

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.