

Geology and Natural History of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, March 19, 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday, March 20, 9 am - 12 pm

Meet at: [Christmas Circle Community Park, Borrego Springs](#) (click on link for a map of the meeting site)

Instructor: Ted Reeves, Instructor, University of the Pacific

Overview

This two-day weekend field class explores the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park which is the largest state park in California. At 600,000 acres, it includes ecosystems of the Colorado Desert and the Peninsular Mountain Range. The region is one of the most active seismic areas in North America. The Salton Trough contains two of the three major plate boundaries. The northern end of the East Pacific rise, a diverging plate boundary, is responsible for the -280-foot elevation at the bottom of the Salton Trough, second only to Death Valley. The second boundary type is represented by the San Andreas Transform fault system. The plate interaction here has exposed rocks from 1.5 billion years old to recent sediments 2 million years old. Our field trip will include a walk through a slot canyon, visits to Palm Canyon and Fonts Point and a drive through the "World Class" geologic site of Split Mountain.

Participants will need to make their own weekend accommodations. We have acquired a few campsites at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park for those who wish to camp. Contact us for information on the campsites and fees. For those that wish to reserve a motel room, please contact us for a list of accommodations in Borrego Springs.

Itinerary

Saturday, March 19

9:00 AM: Meet at Christmas Circle Community Park, Borrego Springs, CA. Bring lunch and water and a full tank of gas.

Stops:

- Ship Rock

- Kenyon Scenic Overlook
- Narrows Earth Trail – ½ mile walk
- The Slot – 1-mile walk
- Split Mountain

Sunday, March 20

9:00 AM: Meet at Anza-Borrego Visitor Center. Bring lunch

Stops:

- Tour of Visitor Center
- Palm Canyon – 1-2 mile walk
- Fonts Point (4WD, High clearance vehicles)

What to Bring to the Course

Required Class Materials

Optional Class Materials

The 10 Essentials: Every day in the Desert

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes
- Lunch and snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- 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

Easy to Moderate

Guidelines

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- 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.
 - Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
 - Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.
 - Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biography

Ted Reeves, taught Geology and Biology at Chaffey High School for 37 years. He is presently teaching for University of the Pacific and believes that a relevant Natural History class requires an outdoor experience. In 2000, he received the National Association of Geology Teachers Outstanding Earth Science Teacher award.

* The Desert Institute staff/instructors will attempt to accommodate participant's needs; however we reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.