

at Joshua Tree National Park

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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Summit Joshua Mountain

Information

Date/Time: Saturday January 29, 2022 8am - 5pm

Meet At: [California Riding and Hiking Trail Wilderness Board](#) (click the link for a map to the meeting site)

Instructor: Travis Puglisi

Overview

Looking west when approaching the north entrance to Joshua Tree National Park in Twentynine Palms you'll notice a Quartz monzonite formation that juts out against the more gently sloping peaks. This proud countenance, known by some as "Indian Head", is officially named Joshua Mountain. The approach for this hike will commence from the southeast in the lower-lying hills, where evidence of bighorn sheep is possible. A majority of the elevation gain will take place in a canyon that terminates due south of the peak and features excellent examples of alkali-feldspar megacrysts that can measure as much as 10cm across. Once attained, the peak provides panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and excellent views of the alluvial fans exiting the park at the north entrance.

Itinerary

January 29, 2022

- 0800: Meet at [California Riding and Hiking Trail Wilderness Board](#)
 - Introductions
 - Safety Check
- 0830: Hike starts
- 0930-1630
 - Hydration/Snack/Rest Break
 - Talks on Flora, Fauna, Geology, Rock climbing, and Mining History
- 1700: Hike Ends

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

- 7.5" USGS Queen Mtn Quad
- GPS Device / Compass
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Field Guides

Suggested Reading/Listening

- [Geology of Joshua Tree National Park with Tor Lacey](#)

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

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, Maximum 6.75 miles round trip. 1176' 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.