

at Joshua Tree National Park

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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Summit Mary Peak

Information

Date/Time: Saturday March 6, 2022 8am - 5:15pm

Meet At: [Oasis Visitor Center](#) (click the link for a map to the meeting site)

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Instructor: Travis Puglisi

Overview

Of the six sub-ranges contained within Joshua Tree National Park, the Hexie Mountains sit squarely within the park's geographic center. At 3,820' above sea level, Mary Peak affords terrific views of the vast Pinto Basin, the Pinto Mountains to the north, and the Coxcomb Mountains which make up the farthest eastern boundary of JTNP. Apart from the unique vantage point it provides, Mary Peak allows participants to hike along one of the most severe-looking cliff faces in the park. Between the mileage and elevation gain/loss, this will be the most challenging hike in the Spring '22 Catalog.

Itinerary

March 6, 2022

- 0800: Meet at TBD
 - Introductions
 - Safety Check
- 0830: Hike starts
- 0930-1630
 - Hydration/Snack/Rest Break
 - Talks on Flora, Fauna, Geology
- 1700: Hike Ends

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 Pinto Mtn and Porcupine Wash Quads
- GPS Device / Compass
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Field Guides

Suggested Reading/Listening

- [Geology of Joshua Tree National Park with Tor Lacey](#)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hexie_Mountains
- http://sbcounty.gov/museum/discover/divisions/geo/pdf/GSA_2004_PintoBasin.pdf
- <https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/historyculture/pintoculture.htm>

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 8 miles round trip. 2064' 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.