

DESERT INSTITUTE

at Joshua Tree National Park

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Phone: 760-367-5535; e-mail: desertinstitute@joshuatree.org

Fall Session

2022

Practical Uses of California Native Plants

Information

Date/ Time: Saturday, September 17, 2022

8:30 am – 4 pm

Meet at: [Joshua Tree Visitor Center](#) (click on link for map)

Instructor: Yanina Aldao Galvan, Agricultural Tech, Field Botanist, Ecologist

Overview

Discover the abundant uses of native desert plants during this one-day field class. Yanina has studied the relationship between plants and humans for almost two decades. “Yani” will teach participants about the plants historically harvested by the native people of Southern California for food, medicine, and utilitarian purposes, and how these plants are used today by other Nations. The program will start with an overview of local Native American tribes and how culture defines plant use or the other way around. Attendees will also learn about plant communities, habitat, and distribution, focusing on the ethnobotany of key species found in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. In the afternoon, the class will follow the trails for a hike to identify edible, medicinal, and other useful plants found in the area. No plants will be harvested in the National Park. Respectful gathering practices will be discussed as well as restrictions on collecting on federal lands and in the National Park.

Itinerary

Saturday, September 17, 8:30 am – 4 pm

Meet at Joshua Tree Visitor Center and caravan to Barker Dam Parking Lot

Barker Dam

- Classroom style lecture
- Lunch break, **bring your own food**
- Field class (hike along the trail)

What to Bring to the Course

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

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.
- 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

Yanina Aldao Galvan is a Naturalized American originally from Argentina where she studied Agricultural Sciences. She has been an Outdoor Educator since 2008 and a Land Steward since childhood. She has worked for the Mojave Desert Land Trust, and Joshua Tree National Park, and is currently in her senior year of Ecology at the University of California Riverside. Her favorite topics are plant Chemistry and Conservation of Biodiversity.

* 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.