

at Joshua Tree National Park

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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Discover Anaconda & Contact Mine

Information

Date/ Time: Sunday, November 6th, 7:30 am – 1 pm
Meet at: Joshua Tree Park Headquarters, 29 Palms
74485 National Park Dr, Twentynine Palms CA 92277
Instructors: Pam Kersey, Camping and hike leader
Tom Scanlan, Camping and hike leader

Overview

Join us for a day of exploring the mining history of Joshua Tree National Park. In this class we will explore the Contact Mine, an abandoned mining site near the 29 Palms entrance. The moderate 3 mile out and back hike follows an old access road to the mine site. We will also explore the Anaconda Mine site located nearby. We will view old mining equipment, shafts and other artifacts left from the time these mines were active. Our instructors will discuss the geologic forces that formed the area, and we'll find out how the gold got deposited there in the first place. We will learn about the history of gold mining and processing as it was typically done in the American West.

The area that now comprises Joshua Tree National Park attracted cattle ranchers in the mid 1800's as a place to graze cattle. Mining activity began in the region around the 1870's reaching its peak during the 1920's and 1930's. Gold was the main objective, but quantities of silver, copper, lead, and other metals were also mined. A few active claims lingered into the 1970's before mining activity ceased. Approximately 288 mining sites are located within the current park boundaries. Some consist of small exploratory digs while other sites still have extensive shafts, abandoned mining and milling equipment, tanks, concrete, wood, and stone structures.

Itinerary

Sunday, November 6, 7:30 am – 1 pm
Joshua Tree Visitor Center, 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, Ca 92252

7:30am – Meet at 29 Palms Visitor Center

8:00am – Introductions/Travel to Contact Mine Trailhead Overflow Parking lot

8:30am – Begin hike.

10:30am – Explore Contact Mine site

11:00 – Explore Anaconda Mine site

1:00pm - End

What to Bring to the Course

- Water (at least 3 liters)
- Food – (your lunch & snacks)
- Snacks and beverages for campfires Friday and Saturday night
- Hiking pack
- Hiking shoes
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Your signed waiver

The 10 Essentials: Everyday in the Desert

- Day pack
- Approximately 3 Liters of water per day
- Closed toe hiking shoes with “grippy” soles
- Food and snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sun glasses/Sunscreen
- Flashlight
- 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

Moderate

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 park. 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.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.
- Before leaving the class, check out with Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biography

PAM KERSEY, EdD, MSN, RN, and is a Desert Institute “lead” volunteer, an archaeological site steward, and has also volunteered as a camp nurse. She has completed four marathon hikes for children’s cancer fundraising. She has camped, backpacked, and hiked for many years including summits over 14,000 feet 5 times. She has taught hiking classes for women and enjoys helping others learn how to safely appreciate camping and hiking. She recently retired from a career as a nurse and as a science and math dean.

* 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.