

DESERT INSTITUTE

Fall Session
2022

at Joshua Tree National Park

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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Discover Lost Horse Mine

Information

Date/ Time: Sunday, December 11 6:30 am – 12 pm
Meet at: [Joshua Tree Visitor Center](#)
6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, CA 92252
Instructors: Pam Kersey, Camping and hike leader
Tom Scanlan, Camping and hike leader

Overview

Join us for trip back to the California Gold Rush, Joshua Tree style. In this class we will explore the Lost Horse Mine, a classic Western mill and mining site. The moderate 3.8 mile out and back hike follows an old freighter road to the remains of the wooden structure that once housed a 10-stamp mill. Our instructors will discuss the geologic forces that formed the area, and we'll find out how that gold got deposited there in the first place. We will learn about the history of the Lost Horse mine, some of the colorful characters associated with it and we'll learn about 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, December 11, 6:30 am – 12 pm
Joshua Tree Visitor Center, 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, Ca 92252

6:30am – Meet at JTNP Visitor Center
6:45am – Travel to Lost Horse Mine Trailhead
7:00am – Introductions. Begin hike.

10:00am – Hike to Overlook. Lunch break.

12:00 – End of class.

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.