

Star Trails Photography

Information

Date/ Time: February 11, 2023 - 5pm-8pm Meetup: 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, CA

Instructor: Casey Kiernan - Joshua Tree Workshops - Joshua Tree, California

Overview

Joshua Tree National Park is world famous for its dark skies! The Park is one of the few places in Southern California where you can see the Night Sky. In this workshop I will show you how to use your DSLR or Mirrorless camera to create star-trail images. All skill levels are welcome to attend! (see equipment requirements below).

Bring your DSLR or Mirrorless camera and I will teach you how to capture the Milky Way! You will need a camera that allows for interchangeable lenses and manual settings of Aperture, Exposure Duration and ISO - and a sturdy Tripod. In order to capture the night-sky, it is best to use a "wide-angle" lens ("mm" is below 24mm). It also helps to have a "fast" lens - these are lenses with maximum aperture of F2.8 or smaller (F1.8 or F1.4). You can contact me before signing up to determine if your camera is capable of capturing the night sky.

We will meet at the Joshua Tree National Park visitors center in Joshua Tree - 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, CA. From there we will car-pool into a 'dark' location in the park.

After the workshop, I will send you an e-book which walks you through the process of post-processing your images using Adobe Lightroom Class (requires a subscription) and Star Stax (Free).

Itinerary

Saturday, Feb 11 - 5 pm to 8 pm

- *Meetup Location : Joshua Tree Visitor Center - 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, CA*
- *5pm – meet at Joshua Tree Visitor Center and car caravan into the Park*
- *We will get back to the Visitors Center around 8pm.*

What to Bring to the Course

Required Class Materials

- Digital camera with full manual controls, 30 second exposure capability, 3200 – 6400 ISO capability
- A wide and fast lens with manual focus ability. An f/2.8 14 – 24 mm full frame equivalent
- Sturdy tripod
- Extra batteries and memory cards
- Remote shutter release (optional)
- Snacks/drinks
- Appropriate clothing – Winter Clothing! long pants and hiking shoes (no open-toe shoes!)
- Small pack or camera bag – we won't be walking far, but it's always handy to have a few items with you.

The 10 Essentials: Every day in the Desert

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes
- Lunch and snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- 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.

Activity Level

Easy - 1/4 mile

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

Casey Kiernan - Joshua Tree, California

Casey lives in Joshua Tree, California. Casey teaches Landscape and Night Time photography in Joshua Tree, Death Valley and Iceland - through his company "Joshua Tree Workshops". (<http://www.joshuatreeworkshops.com>). Casey has been a professional photographer for over 2 decades. He previously managed a studio in Arizona which focused on automotive/motorcycle photography for print and advertising.

Casey has won numerous awards, including 2nd place in the annual Joshua Tree National Park Arts Exposition - 2022 / Photography group (<https://jtnparts.org/jtnpca-featured-artists/>)

Casey also manages the "Joshua Tree Visitors Guide" an on-line resource for all things Joshua Tree! (<https://www.joshuatree.guide/>)

* 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.