



DESERT INSTITUTE
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
PARK ASSOCIATION

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BARKER DAM SUNSET HIKES

FIELD CLASS / FALL 2023

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Join the Desert Institute team every Thursday for an easy sunset hike around Barker Dam. We'll share the scandalous history of early miners and ranchers in the park and visit the sacred petroglyphs that once served as road maps for nomadic native tribes. You'll learn a little about the funky adaptive plants of the desert and the critters that live in them, while marveling at the incredible other-worldly outcroppings of boulders (and we'll talk about how those got here too.) This is a perfect way to end your day (away from the crowds at Key's View) before settling into your campsite for an evening of stargazing. This is a public program and advanced registration is required.

LEADERS: Sarah Witt & Benny Lopez

MEETING LOCATION

Upon registering, you will receive an email with a pin of our meeting location and directions from the Joshua Tree Visitor Center.

DATES and TIMES

September 14 from 6p - 7p, September 21 from 5:30p - 6:30p, September 28 from 5:30p - 6:30p, October 5 from 5p - 6p, October 12 from 5p - 6p, October 19 from 5p-6p, October 26 from 5p - 6p, November 2 from 4:30p - 5:30p, November 9 from 3:30p - 4:30p, November 16 from 3:30p-4:30p, November 30 from 3:30p-4:30p, December 7 from 3:30p-4:30p

Please arrive on time; we start promptly, and in the case of hikes or other classes on the go, we cannot wait for students who arrive late.

HIKE INFO: 1.3 miles round-trip, mostly flat terrain, maintained trail

DURATION: 1 hour

REGISTRATION FEE: \$10 for ages 6 and up (5 and under free)

GROUP SIZE: 16 (advanced registration is required)

ACTIVITY LEVEL: EASY

Slowly-paced walk on maintained trails, approximately 1.3 miles with less than 100 feet elevation gain. Please note this trail is not stroller-accessible or wheelchair accessible. If you have questions about accommodations or your ability to participate, please contact us: desertinstitute@joshuatree.org. Please contact us if you have questions about your ability to participate.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

None

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- First aid and emergency supplies for the group

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Meals
- Lodging
- Transportation
- Entrance fee for Joshua Tree National Park

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- All participants must register in advance. Children ages 5 and under are free, but you will still need to complete a waiver for each person attending, regardless of age
- There is no cell service in the park! Please plan accordingly and arrive ahead of the start time. We will begin the hike promptly at the stated start time.
- Registration fees do not include national park entrance fee (currently \$35/vehicle)
- Please wear sturdy close-toed shoes and bring water for all members of your family
- Hikes run rain or shine; if there is an extreme weather situation such as ice storms or temperatures exceeding 100F, we will cancel the program and notify you as soon as possible.
- All hike reservations are non-refundable

FAQ

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I AM RUNNING LATE?

Please call our main line: 760-819-4714 and if no one answers, please call the Desert Institute coordinator, Benny Lopez: 949-241-9693. Please note that if you call right before the hike begins, we will be in the park and will not have cell service.

Please take into consideration the time it will take to go through the entrance gate—on weekends after 9am, you may wait up to 45 minutes! (15-20 minutes is typical.) For afternoon activities, you will also want to allot time to park, as parking lots tend to be congested between 10am and 4p in the busy season. **There is no cell service in the park**, so please plan accordingly!

WHAT IF I NEED TO CANCEL?

We are unable to process refunds for any reason for the Barker Dam Sunset Hike. (But we would like you to notify us if you are unable to attend so we do not wait for you in the park lot.)

DOES DESERT INSTITUTE CANCEL ACTIVITIES FOR WEATHER OR LOW ENROLLMENT?

Desert Institute runs classes rain or shine, with the exception of astrophotography classes, which require mostly clear skies in order to be successful. If we do not meet our minimum of 4 registered participants for any given activity, we will cancel the activity with 48+ hours notice. We recommend that you purchase travel insurance, as we are unable to reimburse for expenses you incur due to a canceled class, such as airfare and hotel.

ARE THERE ANY THINGS I NEED TO DO TO PREPARE?

All participants must return the completed [health questionnaire and signed waiver](#) before the day of their activity. **Failure to do so will cancel your registration.**

CAN I BRING MY KIDS? MY SPOUSE? PETS?

Only registered participants may attend Desert Institute activities unless noted in the activity description. If this is a kid-friendly activity, please make sure your child(ren) meets the age requirements. As much as we love our pets, we don't allow them in the field with any of our activities.