



DESERT INSTITUTE
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
PARK ASSOCIATION

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EXPLORE THE GOLDEN BEE MINE

FIELD CLASS / FALL 2023

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

What do honeybees have to do with gold mining? Find out the answer on our hike to the Golden Bee Mine. This moderate hike is approximately five miles out-and-back with some cross-country hiking required. The last section follows a rocky old mining road with a steep, 800 ft. elevation gain at the end. At the Golden Bee Mine site we'll see the mine entrance, as well as the remains of some equipment, mining camps, and the mine office area. We will learn about the history of the Golden Bee mine, the miners who ran it's operation, and about gold mining and processing as it was typically done in the Golden State.

MEETING LOCATION

[Cholla Garden parking lot](#), Joshua Tree National Park, approximately 14.5 miles south of the North Entrance gate in Twentynine Palms, and 20 miles north of Cottonwood Visitor Center at the southern entrance to the Park.

DATE and TIME

Sunday, December 10th, 8a to 2p

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

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE/CHALLENGING

Participants can expect to hike five miles with elevation gains of around 800 feet, with most of the elevation gains taking place in one steep, two-mile section. Terrain will be rocky and uneven at times, and good coordination is required. Please contact us if you have questions about accommodations or your ability to participate.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Participants should have prior hiking experience and be comfortable traveling over uneven and rocky terrain.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Admission to Joshua Tree National Park (please download or print your park pass ahead of time, or you will have to pay fees at the gate!)
- First aid and emergency supplies for the group

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Meals
- Lodging
- Transportation

GET TO KNOW YOUR GUIDES

Pam Kersey

Besides teaching field classes for the Desert Institute, Pam 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 and has visited the summit of Mount Whitney twice. She has taught hiking and backpacking classes, and enjoys helping others learn how to safely appreciate camping and hiking. She recently retired from a career as a nurse, nursing professor, and more recently as a science and math college dean where she was responsible for disciplines such as chemistry, math, biology, engineering, physics, and astronomy.

Tom Scanlan

As a retired telecommunication professional and a college educator, Tom spends his time camping, hiking, and doing volunteer work. He loves the outdoors and has ten years of experience as a Boy Scout Leader. As a hiking enthusiast he has climbed Mount Whitney twice. He has taught others of all ages how to backpack, camp, and hike. Tom is an active volunteer archaeological site steward for Joshua Tree National Park and Cleveland National Forest, and also volunteers for Desert Institute.

PROGRAM AGENDA

We will meet in the parking lot of the National Park Headquarters in Twentynine Palms at 8am and caravan to the trailhead, and should be on the trail by 8:30a. We'll stop occasionally along the way to discuss the park's mining history and artifacts we come

across. We'll have a lunch break at the top near the mine site before heading back downhill. We'll return to our cars at the trailhead around 2pm.

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

There is no cell service in the park! Print or download your park pass ahead of time. Please make sure you check the weather ahead of time and dress accordingly. **All participants must complete the [health questionnaire and liability waiver](#) ahead of the program start date.**

WHAT TO BRING

The essentials for all field courses

- Water, between 3 and 4 liters per person for a full day outing
- Food and snacks, easily packed and eaten in the field, for the duration of your course
- Close-toed, sturdy athletic shoes or hiking boots; no sandals, not even hiking sandals!
- Sun protection: hat, sunglasses, sunscreen; light-colored long-sleeved shirts are recommended and very effective on hot days
- Warm layers for cooler mornings/evenings (it can be surprisingly cold!)
- Backpack to carry food, water, and any personal items you need for the day
- Notebook and pencil are always good to have

Recommended

- Trekking poles (if you already have and use them)

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.

For classes meeting in the park, 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?

Desert Institute will provide a full refund if we are notified 14 days in advance. If we are notified less than 14 days in advance, we are unable to process refunds for any reason. (But we would like you to notify us if you are unable to attend.)

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.** If your course enters Joshua Tree National Park, you must **download or print your park pass** ahead of the class, or you will pay the entrance fee at the gate, which is currently \$35 per vehicle.

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.