



DESERT INSTITUTE
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
PARK ASSOCIATION

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55922 Twentynine Palms Highway,
Yucca Valley, 92284

COMMON MINERALS & ROCKS OF JOSHUA TREE NAT'I PARK

FIELD CLASS / SPRING 2024 / INSTRUCTOR: ALESSANDRO GRIPPO
SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Embark on an exhilarating journey through the geological wonders of Joshua Tree National Park! We will begin our quest by delving into the fundamentals of geology, unraveling the mysteries of tectonic plate boundaries and igneous rock formations. But that's just the beginning – brace yourself for an immersive experience as we venture into the heart of the park's iconic landscape. We will traverse the breathtaking Park Boulevard, uncovering the treasures hidden within the famous outcrops. Our expert guide will lead you through the rugged terrain, revealing the stories etched in the textures and compositions of these geological wonders. Don't miss out on this electrifying opportunity to not only identify rocks but to live and breathe the enchanting allure of Joshua Tree National Park. Get ready for a day of discovery, where the ordinary transforms into the extraordinary against the backdrop of this awe-inspiring landscape!

PROGRAM AGENDA

We'll meet at Park Headquarters parking lot at 10:00 AM and head over to the Rattlesnake Room for a safety orientation and lecture/discussion. Around 11am we'll depart and caravan into Joshua Tree National Park to explore rocks and landscapes. At around 1pm we will have lunch (please bring your own lunch/snacks/drink) and resume field exploring at 2pm ending the class by 3pm near the West Entrance in Joshua Tree.

MEETING LOCATION

[Park Headquarters parking lot](#), 74485 National Park Dr, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277, approximately 3.6 miles from the north entrance in 29 Palms.

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.

REQUIRED PREPARATION

Waiver: All participants must complete the [participation waiver](#) at least 24 hours before a class begins. *Failure to do so may forfeit your right to participate.*

Park Pass (\$30 per vehicle): For classes inside Joshua Tree National Park, participants are now required to purchase a [park pass](#). You can purchase a park pass [online](#), or pay at a park entrance. If you have an existing pass, you may use that!

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate ▾ We have designed this event to be accessible to most.

Please contact us if you have questions about your ability to participate.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- First aid and emergency supplies for the group

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Admission to Joshua Tree National Park
- Meals, Lodging, or Transportation

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 (please leave no trace)
- Close-toed 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

Required for this course:

- 7 desert essentials
- Trekking poles
- Notebook and pen/pencil

- Read: *Trent & Hazlett , Joshua Tree National Park Geology , available at visitor centers or online at joshuatree.org/store*

GET TO KNOW YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Alessandro Grippo has done research and taught geology, oceanography, stratigraphy, environmental geology and field classes at Santa Monica College and several California State University campuses. Alessandro has a keen interest for the geology of the American southwest and loves being out there exploring, learning, and sharing his passion for Earth and its history. Alessandro also worked in the oil industry between his M.S. and his Ph.D., was a fellow faculty member at NASA-JPL for one year, and brought his students from Catalina Island to Nevada, from the Salton Sea to northern California. His interests and study, together with his passion for photography took him throughout Europe and the Americas looking for geological features

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

There is no cell service in the park! Please allow ample time to arrive at the meeting location; park entrances may be very busy on weekends (see FAQs).

Please make sure you check weather conditions and dress accordingly.

This activity involves driving to various areas of the park. Please make sure you have a standard clearance vehicle. Carpooling among participants is encouraged to reduce congestion within the park.



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FAQ+ _

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I AM RUNNING LATE?

Desert Institute Manager Benny Erdahl: **949-241-9693**
or Education Director Dr. Justin Lenzi: **760-819-4714**

For classes meeting inside the park, it can take up to 45 minutes to go through an entrance gate on weekends after 9am (though 15-20 minutes is typical). Please 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***, please plan accordingly.

WHAT IF I NEED TO CANCEL?

Desert Institute will provide a full refund if we are notified more than 14 days in advance. We are unable to process refunds for *any* cancellations less than 14 days in advance.

DOES DESERT INSTITUTE CANCEL ACTIVITIES FOR WEATHER OR LOW ENROLLMENT?

If we do not meet our minimum of 6 registered participants for any given activity, we will likely cancel the activity with at least 48+ hours notice.

Desert Institute runs classes rain or shine, with the exception of astrophotography classes, which require mostly clear skies in order to be successful.

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.

WHAT IF I FORGOT SOMETHING I NEED?

Our visitor centers and park stores are stocked with amazing essentials for your adventure. Preview or purchase items from our [online shop](#); we carry [hats](#), [shirts](#), bandanas, water bottles, notebooks, [maps](#), [books](#). And more!

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) are registered and meet the age requirements.

As much as we love pets, we don't allow them in the field with any of our activities.

