



DESERT INSTITUTE
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
PARK ASSOCIATION

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55922 Twentynine Palms Highway,
Yucca Valley, 92284

DISCOVER LOST HORSE MINE

FIELD CLASS / SPRING 2024 / INSTRUCTOR: PAM KERSEY & TOM SCANLAN

MARCH 17, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Join us for a 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.

PROGRAM AGENDA

We'll meet at the Joshua Tree Visitor Center parking lot at 7:00am and do a quick check in and safety orientation. We will then caravan to Lost Horse Mine Trailhead at about 7:15am and begin our hike at 7:30am. We will reach the overlook at around 10a and will have a lunch break (bring your own lunch/snacks/& water). By 1:00pm we will be back in the parking lot and the class will end.

MEETING LOCATION

[Joshua Tree Visitor Center](#), 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, CA 92252
approximately "5.1" miles from the west entrance in Joshua Tree

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 at the entrance!

ACTIVITY LEVEL

MODERATE Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold. 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:

- Water (at least 3 liters)
- Food – (your lunch & snacks)
- Snacks and beverages for campfires Friday and Saturday night
- Hiking pack
- Hiking shoes

- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Hiking poles

Recommended for this course (but not required):

- Notebook and pencil are always good to have

GET TO KNOW YOUR INSTRUCTOR

PAM KERSEY, EdD, RN is a Certified California Naturalist, and a Desert Institute volunteer besides being an instructor, PSAR educator, and volunteers for other organizations in the area. 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. She 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.

Tom Scanlan is a retired telecommunication professional and a college educator, he 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 and is a certified California Naturalist.

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.



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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.

