



DESERT INSTITUTE
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
PARK ASSOCIATION

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55922 Twentynine Palms Highway,
Yucca Valley, 92284

WOMEN'S GETAWAY WEEKEND

FIELD WEEKEND EXPERIENCE / SPRING 2024 / INSTRUCTOR: PAM KERSEY & ROBIN BALCH
FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH, 3:00 PM (ARRIVE) - SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH 12:00 PM (DEPART)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Get away for the weekend with the Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park! Join other women for a camping weekend where you can go to unplug, to get away, to learn new skills and to enjoy the company of other course participants. Trade in your computer, cell phone, Instagram, clocks, schedules, and workplace jargon for an off-the-grid weekend with the girls for two days of pure unadulterated fun and education! Join Pam and Robin learning about camping, camp cooking, wildflowers, hiking and enjoying Joshua Tree National Park. This weekend class will be held at the Lost Horse Campsite, a beautiful location that is perfect for this program! We will also be traveling to trails at times so you will need access to your car. The campground is also reserved for Friday night, so if you wish to arrive the night prior to the workshop, please email desertinstitute@joshuatree.org

PROGRAM AGENDA

Friday, April 26, 3p (optional)

Students will have the option to arrive on Friday to set up camp early and meet the rest of the crew. If you choose to arrive on Friday, we will meet at the Joshua Tree Visitor Center Parking Lot in the town of Joshua Tree. We will caravan everyone into the park and you will be able to set up camp before the sun goes down.

Saturday, April 27, 8a-5p

We'll start with a brief introduction, and we will go out for a morning hike in search of wildflowers. After a morning hike we'll head back to camp and have a lunch break. We will also allow anyone who arrives on Saturday morning to set up camp at this time. We may have one more afternoon hike and a discussion on hiking emergencies, first aid kits and suggestions on choosing a trail. We will end the class at 5pm. Food is not provided, please bring your own food, pots, pans, and anything you'll need to make

your meals. You may make dinner at camp and instructors may discuss camp cooking. Everyone will enjoy a nice warm campfire and can hang out until it's bedtime.

Sunday, April 28, 8a-12p

The second day of Women's Weekend Getaway will entail breakfast at camp in the morning (breakfast not included) followed by a morning hike. We'll head back to camp, break down, and the class will be over by 12.

MEETING LOCATION

[Joshua Tree Visitor Center](#), 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, Ca 92252 (approximately "13.7" miles from the Lost Horse Campground in Joshua Tree National Park)

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 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
- Camping or hiking gear

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:

- Comfortable Folding Chair
- Camping Equipment and Food for the weekend, such as:
- Tent (we can help you set up)
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Foam pad, blow up mattress or cot
- Cooler (you need to bring your own ice if you bring perishables)
- Water (there is no water in the park or in our campground)
- Food - Cook breakfast and dinner at camp and bring lunches that can be taken in your backpack
- Snacks and beverages for campfires Saturday night
- Cooking and eating utensils
- Lantern
- Flashlight (your headlamp will do just fine)
- Trash bags
- Toiletries and towel (there is an outhouse and no running water at camp)
- (Optional) hiking poles

Recommended:

- Extra layers of warm clothing
- Extra blanket or sleeping bag in case it gets too cold at night.

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.

ROBIN BALCH, is a Desert Institute volunteer, besides being an instructor. Robin also serves on JOSAR and PSAR for Joshua Tree National Park. She has hiked several portions of the Pacific Crest Trail and has been a Forest Service Fire Lookout. Her hiking and camping skills make her a great co-instructor for the Women's "Get-Away" Weekend

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.

