



DESERT INSTITUTE
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
PARK ASSOCIATION

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55922 Twentynine Palms Highway,
Yucca Valley, 92284

STAR TRAIL PHOTOGRAPHY

FIELD CLASS / SPRING 2024 / INSTRUCTOR: CASEY KIERNAN

MARCH 30TH, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Joshua Tree National Park is world famous for its dark skies! The Park is one of the few places in Southern California where you can see the Night Sky. In this workshop I will show you how to use your DSLR or Mirrorless camera to create star-trail images. All skill levels are welcome to attend! (see equipment requirements below). Bring your DSLR or Mirrorless camera and I will teach you how to capture the Milky Way! You will need a camera that allows for interchangeable lenses and manual settings of Aperture, Exposure Duration and ISO - and a sturdy Tripod. In order to capture the night-sky, it is best to use a “wide-angle” lens (“mm” is below 24mm). It also helps to have a “fast” lens - these are lenses with maximum aperture of F2.8 or smaller (F1.8 or F1.4). You can contact me before signing up to determine if your camera is capable of capturing the night sky.

PROGRAM AGENDA

We'll meet at the Joshua Tree Visitor Center, 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree CA and do our safety orientation and student check in. We'll caravan into the park and will take roughly 8-13 miles to arrive at our destination, Cap Rock parking lot. We'll take out our photography gear and walk .5 miles and set up and take photos with instructor feedback. We'll start heading back to the parking lot at around 7:45p and depart by 8p.

MEETING LOCATION

[Joshua Tree Visitor Center Parking Lot](#), 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, CA 92252 (approximately “5.1” miles from the west entrance to 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

EASY All levels are welcome. 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
- Photography equipment

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:

- Digital camera with full manual controls, 30 second exposure capability, 3200 - 6400 ISO capability
- A wide and fast lens with manual focus ability. An f/2.8 14 - 24 mm full frame equivalent
- Sturdy tripod
- Extra batteries and memory cards
- Remote shutter release (optional)

- Snacks/drinks
- Appropriate clothing – Winter Clothing! long pants and hiking shoes (no open-toe shoes!)
- Small pack or camera bag – we won't be walking far, but it's always handy to have a few items with you.

GET TO KNOW YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Casey Kiernan lives in Joshua Tree, California. Casey teaches Landscape and Night Time photography in Joshua Tree, Death Valley and Iceland - through his company “Joshua Tree Workshops”. (<http://www.joshuatreeworkshops.com>). Casey has been a professional photographer for over 2 decades. He previously managed a studio in Arizona which focused on automotive/motorcycle photography for print and advertising. Casey has won numerous awards, including 2nd place in the annual Joshua Tree National Park Arts Exposition - 2022 / Photography group (<https://jtnparts.org/jtnpca-featured-artists/>) Casey also manages the “Joshua Tree Visitors Guide” an on-line resource for all things Joshua Tree! (<https://www.joshuatree.guide/>)

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.