

DESERT INSTITUTE

*at Joshua Tree National Park*

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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Fall

2016

## Fine Art Photography in Joshua Tree National Park

### Information

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Date/ Time: Friday, November 18, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday, November 19, 5:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Sunday, November 20, 5:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Meet at: [Oasis Visitor Center](#) (click the link for a map to the meeting site)

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Instructor: Ralph Nordstrom, photography workshop leader & fine art landscape photographer

### Overview

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Immerse yourself in the wonders of Joshua Tree National Park and connect with the enchantment to be found there. The content of this workshop will focus, not only on the mechanics of photography, but, also on personal interpretation and expression which is the heart of the art. Our experience of this marvelous land will be enhanced by camping in the Lost Horse Campground, from Friday through Sunday. The weekend schedule includes two (2) sunrise shoots, two (2) morning shoots, one (1) sunset shoot, one (1) optional night sky shoot (if conditions permit). There will be classroom programs to provide an orientation, to discuss “The Essence of Fine Art” and Photo Sharing and Photo Reviews. This is an “action packed” workshop, so, bring your camera equipment, camping equipment and enthusiasm and watch your creativity soar! Note: arrangements will be made for those preferring to sleep with something more substantial over their heads than rip-stop nylon. Plan to make accommodations in Twentynine Palms and meet at the Oasis Visitor center to head out to the shooting locations.

### Itinerary

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<b>Friday, November 18</b>		
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Meet and greet, orientation	Joshua Tree National Park Oasis Visitor Center
9:00 pm	Set up camp	Lost Horse Campground
<b>Saturday, November 19</b>		
5:00 am – 8:00 am	Sunrise shoot (arrive at the location by 5:30 am; <b>sunrise @ 6:07 am</b> )	Cholla Garden (bring sack breakfast)
8:00 am – 11:00 am	Morning shoot	White Tank campground (arch and other wonders)

11:00 am – 12:00 noon	Lunch (bring sack lunch)	Oasis Visitor Center
12:00 noon – 3:00 pm	The Essence of Fine Art	Oasis Visitor Center
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Sunset shoot (arrive at the location by 4:30 pm; sunset @ 5:44 pm)	Barker Dam area
7:30 pm	Dinner	Twentynine Palms
Later	Night photography (optional)	TBD
<b>Sunday, November 20</b>		
5:00 am – 8:00 am	Sunrise shoot (arrive at the location by 5:00 am; sunrise @ 6:06 am)	Sheep Pass (or other suitable location – bring sack breakfast)
8:00am – 10:00am	Morning Shoot	Juniper Flats
10:00am – 11:00am	Break camp	Lost Horse Campground
11:00 am – 12:00 noon	Lunch (bring sack lunch)	Oasis Visitor Center
12:00 noon – 3:00 pm	Photo sharing and review	Oasis Visitor Center

Note: We will carpool to all of our shooting locations to avoid excess traffic in the park.

### **What to Bring to the Course**

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#### ***Required Class Materials***

- Camera (digital or film SLR, medium format, large format)
- Tripod
- Lenses (zoom and/or prime lenses that range from wide angle to telephoto)
- Filters
  - Polarizer (recommended)
  - Graduated Neutral Density (optional)
- **Your camera user manual**
- Extra batteries
- Extra memory cards / film
- Camera bag
- Remote shutter release
- Lens cleaning cloths or tissues
- Headlamp (optional red light recommended for night photography)

#### ***Optional Class Materials***

- Laptop computer with image processing software
- Thumb drive
- GPS
- Hiking Poles

#### ***Camping Materials***

- Tent
- Sleeping bag
- Foam pad, blow up mattress or cot
- Cooler (ice may not be readily available so don't bring perishables)

- Water (there is no water in the park or in our campground)
- Food
  - Sack breakfasts for Saturday and Sunday
  - Lunches Saturday and Sunday will be at the Oasis Visitor Center. Several options for purchasing lunch are available in Twentynine Palms
  - We will all go out for dinner Saturday night.
- Lantern
- Flashlight (your headlamp will do just fine)
- Trash bags
- Toiletries and towel

***The 10 Essentials: Everyday in the Desert***

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Hiking boots with traction soles
- Lunch and snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Whistle

**Fitness Requirements**

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

**Hike Level**

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Easy to moderate

**Guidelines**

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- You are responsible for your safety.
- Park your car in designated areas only. Parking along the side of the road is dangerous to you and the environment.
- Rattlesnakes are present in the park. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.

- **Note:** *Please do not rely on cell phone navigation apps like Google Maps or Apple Maps for directions to meeting places. Because of the rural nature of the Morongo Basin (Morongo, Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree, and Twentynine Palms) these applications are notoriously inaccurate. Once inside the National Park there is no cell reception and these applications will not work at all. To avoid getting lost and losing out on valuable instruction time, follow directions and maps given out by instructors and volunteers.*

## **Instructor Biography**

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**Ralph Nordstrom:** Nature has always been a source of inspiration, adventure and rejuvenation for me. Leaving the city and venturing into the wilderness always fills me with anticipation and excitement. The wilderness is fulfilling in and of itself. Adding photography to the experience, especially approaching photography with the eye of an artist, makes the encounter even richer. Because, in art we attune ourselves to our personal response to the beauty we see and attempt to communicate our unique vision through our works. The journey into fine art photography is a venture into a heightened awareness of our surroundings and can also be an odyssey of self-discovery. It is this journey that thrills me as much as my best photographs.

## **Suggested Reading**

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These two blog posts sum up the spirit of this course.

Making a Photograph – The Four Pillars

<http://ralphnordstromphotography.com/wordpress/articles/making-photograph-pillars/>

Taking Your Photography to the Next Level

<http://ralphnordstromphotography.com/wordpress/journal/photography-level-2/>

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\* The Desert Institute staff/instructors will attempt to accommodate participant's needs; however we reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.