

JT Rocks!

Information

Date/Time: Saturday, May 6, 2023 10 AM – 3 PM

Meet at: Oasis Visitor Center, 74485 National Park Dr, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Instructor: Alessandro Grippo, Ph.D (U.S.C. 2003), Professor of Geology and Oceanography, Santa Monica College and CSU Dominguez Hills

Overview

A variety of different rocks is present in Joshua Tree, and this class will allow you to recognize and identify the main types, while enjoying the fantastic and unique landscape of the park. This one-day class will start in the classroom by covering the basics of geology, from plate tectonics to major rock groups, with identification of some samples. We will then proceed to explore some of the most famous outcrops along Park Boulevard, finding out some of these rocks in the field and discussing their texture and composition.

Itinerary

Saturday, May 6, 2023

- 9:30a meet at Oasis Visitor Center for lecture and discussion
- 10:30am morning field class
- 1p Lunch Break, bring your own food
- 2p afternoon field Class, Park Boulevard

What to Bring

Recommended reading:

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

Required for Class

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.

Please wear a daypack and carry the following:

- 4 quarts of water

- Appropriate footwear (no open-toed shoes, no sandals) sneakers or boots
- Lunch and snacks
- Appropriate clothing layers—check forecast, it may be chilly or even wet!
- Sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, long sleeve lightweight shirt)
- whistle and personal first aid/medications

Optional items:

- trekking poles
- notebook and pen/pencil

Fitness Requirements

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

Easy to moderate

Instructor Biography

Alessandro Grippo, Ph.D., started teaching while still a graduate student. He has taught a variety of class, from Introduction to Geology to Oceanography, Earth History, Natural Disasters, Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, and Field Methods.

He keeps on working on different scientific projects and he presented his work at international meetings in the US, the UK, Italy, France and Canada. His research interests as a scientist include stratigraphy and sedimentology, oceanography, geomorphology, regional geology and global and climate change. In particular he is doing research on how to extract and process information about environmental change and ancient climates from the sedimentary rock record.

Dr. Grippo obtained his Philosophy Doctor degree from the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles by discussing astronomically-related climate change through a geological and mathematical analysis of a sedimentary rock record from the Cretaceous Period. Between his M.S. and his Ph.D. degrees he has been working in the oil industry as an exploration and well-site geologist. While teaching college, he was also a NASA-JPL faculty fellow. He has been working as an external field instructor for the Desert Institute since 2017, where he leads different field explorations of the Mojave desert, from Death Valley to Joshua Tree itself.

* 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.