

Joshua Tree Rock Climbing Seminar

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Joshua Tree is one of the best known rock climbing areas in the world, and for good reason. Warm weather, easy approaches, limited exposure and superb rock climbing add up to make the perfect destination. This seminar is designed for rock climbers of all levels, from absolute beginner looking for a safe introduction to the sport to the seasoned climber looking to improve technique. Instruction will be personal and fun, with a low student/instructor ratio. Students will be matched carefully according to their experience and comfort level. The group will meet and work out of a campground right in the Park. With easy access from LA or Palm Springs, this is the perfect fall getaway.

Date: October 8-12, 2012

Landcost: \$875

Ratio: 3 students per guide

Private programs are available on your schedule:

One person/one guide: \$300 per day

Two persons/one guide: \$200 per day

Three persons/one guide: \$175 per day

Four persons/one guide: \$150 per day

Getting there:

Palm Springs is the closest major airport, about an hour's drive away, but LA and Las Vegas are viable alternatives. Ontario is another consideration. Only 50 miles further away than Palm Springs, airline tickets are much cheaper. Once the group is finalized, a team roster will be sent out, and participants are encouraged to car pool.

From Palm Springs, take Interstate 10 east to highway 62. The town of Yucca Valley is the last place to find a major grocery store to purchase groceries. Follow 62 to the town of Joshua Tree. Joshua Tree is the final stopping point to pick up needed items such as food, water and climbing gear. The local climbing store is Nomad Ventures and it has all the necessary climbing gear you might need. It is located on Park Boulevard, the main intersection in town, which leads to the West Entrance Station. There is a fee to enter the park, a weekly pass is \$10 per vehicle. From the west Entrance, drive 9 miles to Hidden Valley Campground, and then on several miles east to Sheep Pass Campground. The group will be staying in one of the group campsites.

"George takes smaller groups, and I think that makes a big difference. Everyone that I have climbed with on George's expeditions are motivated, enjoy a good challenge, and are fun to hang out with..."

—Bruce G.

For more comments from IMG climbers, please see our website at: www.mountainguides.com/comments.shtml

Camping/lodging/food

Reservations will be made for the group to camp in a group campsite for each of the nights of the program, including the night prior to the starting date. Participants will be encouraged to share tents and cooking stoves, and the team may choose to drive out of the park for dinner occasionally. Keep your camping supplies simple, IMG can provide tents for rent if you require one. You will be responsible for your own meals during the program. It will probably be easiest to pick up your food on the way into the Park. Bring plenty of non-perishable snacks for lunch and simple breakfast food (cold or hot cereal and hot drinks). You may choose to bring dinners to cook at camp, or join the group for a trip into a restaurant in town.

Some participants will prefer to stay at a local motel just out of the park each night. The nearest motel is probably the High Desert Motel in Joshua Tree. Other options include a Best Western (the nicest looking place around) and a Motel 6 in 29 Palms, and there are a number of motels in Yucca Valley including a Super 8. Climbers who choose this option must be prepared to arrive each morning to meet the group at the agreed upon starting time and place.

Gear

Joshua Tree is desert terrain, so plan a getting gritty and dirty after a day of climbing. Shower facilities are available in Joshua Tree for \$3.00. Bring your own towel. Bring several changes of t-shirts and climbing pants. The rock is fairly coarse and rough textured, so durable climbing wear is a must. The weather can vary from very warm during the midday to breezy and chilly at night. A climbing helmet, a harness and a pair of rock shoes are the primary pieces of required specialized equipment. Rock shoes are available for rent from IMG and from Nomad Ventures in Joshua Tree. Cost is \$7.50 per day.

Guides

Information on the climbing routes we may visit can be found in [Joshua Tree: Rock Climbing Guide](#) by Randy Vogel (Chockstone/Falcon); [Rock Climbs of Hidden Valley](#) by Alan Bartlett (Quail Springs Publishing); and [Southern California Bouldering Guide](#) by Craig Fry (Chockstone). A good general look at the park can be found in [Joshua Tree National Park](#) by Randy Vogel (Chockstone Classic Climbs Series).

"George is great at assessing the abilities of his team members and pushing them without putting anyone at risk. I climb with George because he's been at it so long, and he knows what it takes not just to get to the top, but more crucially, to get the whole team down safely. I trust him implicitly..."

—Bob G.

For more comments from IMG climbers, please see our website at: www.mountainguides.com/comments.shtml

Joshua Tree Equipment List

Climbing Gear:

- Harness
- UIAA Rated Climbing Helmet
- 2 locking carabiners (pear shaped preferred)
- Belay device (ATC or equivalent)
- Rock Shoes (available for rent)
- Chalk Bag (optional)
- Athletic Tape (at least one large roll of 2" tape)
- Day Pack

Clothes:

- Several pairs of comfortable climbing pants
- 1 or 2 pairs of shorts
- T-shirts
- Rain/windproof jacket
- Fleece jacket
- Windshirt (optional)
- Lightweight Down Jacket (optional)
- 1 polypro shirt
- Light gloves
- Warm hat
- Sun Hat
- several pairs of socks
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Lip Balm with sunscreen
- Approach shoes (ie. Tennis shoes)
- Sandals

Camping Gear:

- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping pad
- Cup, Bowl, Spoon, Fork
- Pocket Knife
- Toiletries and toilet paper (all toilets in the park are pit toilets)
- Headlamp or Flashlight
- Camp Chair (optional)
- Water Bottles (minimum of 3 liters, there is no water source inside the park. Recommended to bring a large collapsible water jug as well for camp use.)
- Towel
- Tent (arrangements can be made to share tent space amongst the group or rent from IMG)
- Portable stove, cookgear

Note: it is also possible to stay in lodging just outside the Park each night if you prefer a bed and bath. Options in Joshua Tree include the High Desert Inn and the Joshua Tree Inn. In 29 Palms try the Best Western or Motel 6. Yucca Valley (further away) includes a Super 8 and The Sands.

Joshua Tree Itinerary

Day 1

The group should plan to meet by 8:00 a.m. on the starting date at the Sheep Pass campground. Most members will want to arrive the night before, and camp at the group campsite.

Review/Introduce Climbing Basics: knots and belaying
Introduction to movement on rock with a focus on footwork
Taping methods
Crack climbing technique
Get some mileage in!

*Suggested Areas: Atlantis Wall, **Trashcan Rock (Quail Springs)**, Thin Wall, Short Wall*

Day 2

Introduce more advanced movement and crack climbing techniques
Placement and removal of traditional gear
Anchor equalization

*Suggested Areas: **Atlantis Wall**, Thin Wall, Short Wall, Echo Cove*

Day 3

Climbing continues
Multi-pitch training
Belay escapes and basic rock rescue or mock leading

*Suggested Areas: Atlantis Wall, **Thin Wall**, Short Wall, Echo Cove, Intersection Rock*

Day 4

Multi-pitch climbing for first half of group
Continue progression of more difficult climbs for second half of group*

Suggested Areas: Intersection Rock, Lost Horse Wall, Echo Cove, Short Wall*, Dairy Queen Wall*, Hemmingway Buttress**

Day 5

Multi-pitch climbing for second half of group
Continue progression of more difficult climbs for first half of group*

Suggested Areas: Intersection Rock, Lost Horse Wall, Echo Cove, Short Wall*, Dairy Queen Wall*, Hemmingway Buttress**

This itinerary is a general guideline only. The actual course content will be determined by the guides and based on team preference, the skill level of individual participants and their learning rates. As always, the seminar focus will be on lots of climbing in a safe and supportive environment. There will be fun and challenges for all levels of climbers. Participants will be encouraged to advance at their own speed and within their personal comfort level.