



**FEBRUARY 2015 Field Trip**  
**JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK**

DATE: Saturday February 28, 2015

CARPOOL: Meet at 9:00am across from the Total Wine parking lot  
 at 16272 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach at SE corner of Beach and Stark

PARK ENTRANCE FEE \$15 (Valid for 7 days).

Free if you have a National Park Pass.

LUNCH: Hidden Valley Picnic Area, 12:30pm

**ASSIGNMENT: Genre – Travel Technique - Backlighting**

February's PSOC outing will be at the spectacular and diverse Joshua Tree National Park. The desert scenery is rugged and beautiful with dramatic vistas, enormous boulders, jagged rocks, natural cactus gardens, and forests of Joshua trees. The Mojave Desert and the Colorado Desert (part of the Sonoran Desert) meet in the nearly 800,000 acres of the park. Within the park you can experience the contrasting beauty of the high and low desert. Keys View offers a dramatic overlook of the Coachella Valley and the mountains of the San Bernardino National Forest. The Cholla Cactus Garden is wonderful in the late afternoon when the sun is setting. The Joshua trees usually start to bloom in late February.

The National Park Service website for Joshua Tree offers extensive information about the park. There is also an excellent map that will help you plan your trip in advance. Once you arrive at the park, visit one of the three visitor centers to get maps and information. The website is at: <http://www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm>.

There are a few different ways to get to Joshua Tree and there are three different entrances. Though the following route is not the shortest, it is the easiest. This will take you to the entrance at Joshua Tree Visitor Center. Allow approximately 2 ½ hours travel time to and from Joshua Tree. From the carpool location, take the 405 south to the 55 north. Take the 91 east, to the 10 east. From the 10, take the Twenty Nine Palms Highway (62) to the west station entrance at Park Blvd. Bring a picnic lunch as we will be meeting at the Hidden Valley parking lot and picnic area at 12:30 for lunch. Page 13 has a map to picnic area and also here is a link to a map that shows the location of Hidden Valley Picnic Area: <http://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/upload/jotrmap.pdf>. If you wish to purchase sandwiches on your way in to the park, there is a café at the Joshua Tree Visitor Center.

## JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

### Joshua Tree Visitor Center

- **Open:** All Year 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Phone:** 760-366-1855
- **Location:** South of Hwy 62 (Twentynine Palms Highway) on Park Boulevard in the Village of Joshua Tree
- **Special Programs:** Park videos are shown upon request.
- **Exhibits:** yes
- **Available Facilities:** bookstore, cafe, flush toilets onsite; public telephone and showers nearby

If you wish to stay overnight, there are campgrounds in the park and there are some motels in the area, either in Joshua Tree or Twenty Nine Palms. Mike has suggested the High Desert Motel in Joshua Tree, <http://www.joshuatreevillage.com/216/216.htm>. Be sure to make arrangements in advance as the park is very popular and some motels require a two night stay.

Sunrise is approximately at 6:14am and sunset is approximately at 5:38pm. For more exact information you might want to refer to this website to plan your sunrise & sunset photography shooting: <http://photoephemeris.com/>.





Martha Blake

