Living Desert University
Do you speak Desert?

Living Desert University
Adult Education

Through LDU we are pleased to offer adults the chance to learn more about our desert biome through a variety of enjoyable and educational offerings.

We have nature themed walks, treks and hikes to some of the Coachella Valley’s most interesting locations—including several outings to the world renowned Smoke Tree Ranch.

If you’ve ever spoken to one of our fabulous volunteers, and their passion in sharing the desert has led you to ponder ‘I wish I knew more about that’- here’s your chance! This season everyone is invited to attend some of the specially selected classes we conduct to train our staff!

And, if you’ve got a ‘bit of wanderlust’, you can always join one of our Carpool Caravan Salton Sea Birding trips. Or, if you’d rather let someone else do the driving we offer a mid-February Coachella Valley Natural History Tour by deluxe motorcoach!

Space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

Please register at LivingDesert.org or email LDU@LivingDesert.org for more information.
**Water & Its Local History**
*With the Coachella Valley Water District*
This workshop is designed to help answer the question of exactly where the desert’s water comes from—you’ll explore both the natural watersheds and aquifers around us, as well as the multi-agency agreements that bring additional water to the Coachella Valley - how that water gets here, and what is done with it.

**Wednesday, December 7th**
9-11:30am
Members $20/Non-Members $30

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**Turf Conversion & Drip Irrigation**
*With the Coachella Valley Water District*
This workshop will guide you through the important decision to replace your water-thirsty turf with desert friendly landscaping. Besides the benefits of turf conversion, you’ll learn best practice drip irrigation methods to help you make the most of your new desert, water-friendly garden.

*(Boxed lunches provided by Coachella Valley Water District.)*

**Saturday, February 18th**
9am-2pm
Members $25/Non-Members $35

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**Potting & Propagation Projects @ TLD** Hands-on Workshop
Join our Garden Staff and spend the morning in our greenhouse learning the specialized techniques The Living Desert’s propagator, Bob Linstead, uses for propagating and growing beautiful native and desert adapted plants. See firsthand all of the Living Desert’s current propagation projects. You’re bound to go away with new appreciation, as well as a few ‘samples’ you’ve potted up to take home!

**Sunday, March 12th**
9am-noon
Members $25/Non-Members $35

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**Water-Wise Gardening**
*With the UCR Master Gardeners*
Join the University of California at Riverside, Palm Desert Campus, Master Gardeners in this extended day workshop. There will be informative presentations as well as hands-on demonstrations of desert gardening techniques to help you with your water friendly desert garden. *(You may wish to pack a snack/lunch, or be prepared to purchase one on grounds.)*

**Saturday, March 18th**
9am-2pm
Members $25/Non-Members $35

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**Desert Backyard Habitats**
This class will explore exactly what steps you can take to make your desert garden a haven for native species. Find out what elements are needed to attract and sustain the ‘locals’!

Your workshop will include a visit to our Palo Verde Garden Center, where you’ll be shown which plants will best help you create your habitat garden.

*(Participants of the class will receive an additional discount if they choose to purchase plant materials at that time.)*

**Wednesday, March 15th**
9-11am
Members $20/Non-Members $30
Join The Living Desert Staff & Volunteers in these informative and fun sessions. These training classes are facilitated by The Living Desert Directors, Curators, Specialized Professionals and Seasoned Volunteer staff. Come learn directly from those ‘in the know’!

Each of these sessions will include in-class instruction, followed by an on-grounds walk (weather & time permitting). Be sure to bring a bottle of water and dress according to the weather, with comfortable walking shoes.

**Member Price $20 / Non-member Price $30**
(Staff & Volunteers, please register through the Education Office)

**Conservation Projects @ The Living Desert**
Join our Conservation Director, Peter Siminski, as he reveals the many conservation projects, local and global, that we are a part of.

- **Friday, December 2nd** 9am-noon
- **Wednesday, March 8th** 1-4pm

**The Basics of Geology**
Learn more about the geologic forces that created the Coachella Valley, and continue to influence valley life today.

- **Monday, December 12th** 9am-noon
- **Friday, February 22nd** 9am-noon

**Plants of The Living Desert**
Desert plants have learned how to make the most out of the scarce resources available to them. Come learn about these drought tolerant wonders!

- **Wednesday, December 14th** 9am-noon
- **Thursday, March 2nd** 9am-noon

**Mammals of The Living Desert**
From North American cottontails to African giraffe, learn more about our ‘furry friends’.

- **Wednesday, January 18th** 9am-noon  Focus on Prey Species
- **Friday, January 20th** 9am-noon  Focus on Predator Species
- **Friday, February 3rd** 9am-noon  Focus on Prey Species
- **Friday, February 10th** 9am-noon  Focus on Predator Species

**Reptiles of The Living Desert**
Nothing says ‘desert’ like our scaly residents! Come find out more about these desert survivalists.

- **Monday, January 23rd** 1-4pm
- **Sunday, February 26th** 1-4pm
Basics of Ecology
The interconnections in our desert biome are intricate and fragile. Come learn how it all fits together.
Friday, January 27th 9am-noon

Bird Basics
Sign up for one, or both, of these avian adventures! Each session will cover bird basics and may include a bird walk.
(Note: These are not species identification classes.)
Wednesday, March 8th 9am-noon Session A - Anatomy
Wednesday, March 29th 1-4pm Session B - Behavior

Invertebrates of The Living Desert
Insects and arachnids are among the most abundant and diverse organisms on Earth. Familiarize yourself with this misunderstood part of the animal kingdom.
Friday, March 24th 1-4pm

Home & Garden Tours

A Moorish Estate: Indian Canyon/Palm Springs Home & Garden Tour
Deep in the heart of the Indian Canyon area of Palm Springs a Moorish estate was created, blending desert plants and Mediterranean architecture to create a true desert paradise. The home feels as if was built in a hundred-year-old European olive grove. Join Mike Chedester and the home owner in learning the how this estate was designed, came to fruition and continues to grow.
Meet at tour location: directions will be sent to participants prior to tour date
Friday, February 24th 9-11am

Nature Did it First: Chino Hills/Little Tuscany Landscape & Home Tour
Visit the unique Chino Canyon neighborhood of Palm Springs. This enclave boasts homes set on a sloping alluvial fan among massive granite boulders accented by desert plants. Visit the stunning home of Director of Education Mike Chedester and hear the story of landscape design, using desert native plants that enchant the senses, and attract local desert animal species.
Meet at tour location: directions will be sent to participants prior to tour date
Friday, March 10th 9-11am

Garden Tour Pricing
Member $25
Non-member $35
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Questions? Email LDU@LivingDesert.org
Hike: Vargas Palms Trail (moderate)
Join us for a gradual hike towards a hidden oasis in Snow Creek Canyon. We’ll traverse open wash habitat, and identify native plants and flowers on this 5 mile hike. Golden eagles have been sighted in this area.  
*Location:* Meet at 111 and Snow Creek Road *(directions will be sent)*  
*Friday, November 4th*  
9am-noon  
Members $12 / Non-members $17

Class: ‘Tread Lightly’ (includes a visit to our nature trail system)
This session will cover best practices in current trail etiquette with an eye towards stewardship, including ‘Leave No Trace’ concepts - which stress we should ‘take only pictures and leave only footprints.’  
*Location:* Education Center @ TLD  
*Wednesday, November 9th*  
9am-noon  
Members $12 / Non-members $17

Trek: Cabot’s Pueblo Museum with Private VIP Tour (easy)
We’ll start with a private tour of Cabot’s Pueblo, focusing on the early settler history of the Coachella Valley, then we’ll enjoy a short walk around the five acre campus and gardens. Cabot Yerxa was an early homesteader and utilized the hot mineral water aquifers within Mission Springs/Desert Hot Springs. If you would like to stay and enjoy Cabot’s after our tour, you may choose to bring your lunch as well.  
*Location:* Meet at Cabot’s Pueblo Museum  
*Tuesday, December 20th*  
9-11:30am  
Members $20 / Non-members $25

Hike: Eisenhower Trail Guided Interpretive Hike (moderate-strenuous)
Experience wash walking and boulder hopping at the base of Eisenhower Peak with an approx. 700 foot elevation gain. Once at the apex of our outer loop trail, you’ll experience spectacular views of the Coachella Valley - and a view of the amazing estate homes of El Dorado and The Vintage county clubs. The hike will familiarize hikers with hiking best practices, and ‘Leave no Trace’ principles - plus, an up close, personal observation of native plant and animal life. *(Participants should be in good health, and be prepared for an approximately 5 mile hike in our wilderness area. Dress for the weather, bring plenty of water and a snack.)*  
Meet 8am at the Information Center in TLD’s Entrance Plaza  
Thursday, October 20th  
Wednesday, November 23rd  
Monday, January 23rd  
Tuesday, February 7th  
Thursday, December 15th  
Thursday, March 2nd

This offering is FREE for Members - No pre-registration required for this hike!

Hike: Cactus Springs (moderate-strenuous)
Join us on this 6 mile hike, featuring the wildflowers and geology of this unique area - one of the few desert hikes that has a water feature along the way! Participants must be in good physical condition as there is a lot of ‘up and down’ hiking involved - hiking poles are advisable. See for yourself this unique area as we explore the transition zone!  
Be sure to be appropriately attired (shoes with good traction are a must), bring plenty of water, snacks and your lunch (if desired).  
*Location:* Carpool from The Living Desert  
*Thursday, January 12th*  
8am-2pm  
Members $12 / Non-members $17
**Trek: UCR Boyd Deep Canyon Research Center** (easy-moderate)
This easy to moderate 4 mile trek (facilitated by Al Muth, the center’s director) features the geology and native plants located at this reclusive and restricted valley gem. We may even get a glimpse of bighorn sheep in their natural habitat! (Depending on precipitation, we may be traversing swollen waterways as well.) We’ll start with a private tour of the University of California Boyd Deep Canyon Research Center, where we’ll hear about past, present and future science studies conducted on-site. Then, we’ll hike up the canyon to one of the largest stands of red barrel cactus in the Coachella Valley! Dress for the weather, be sure to bring snacks, plenty of water and your camera/binoculars, if desired.

*Location: Carpool from The Living Desert*
**Monday, February 13th** 9am-noon
*Members $12 / Non-members $17*

**Hike: Whitewater Canyon to PCT Loop** (moderate-strenuous hike)
This moderate 4 mile hike features Whitewater River, which runs year-round. Riparian vegetation and wildflowers along with birds, deer and bighorn sheep are abundant this time of year. We’ll walk 2 miles on the famous Pacific Coast Trail. There is a moderate elevation gain, and some rock scrambling ahead of us. We’ll cross some gently moving creeks amid the beauty of the riparian habitat. Dress for the weather, and be sure to bring snacks, plenty of water, your lunch and camera/binoculars (if desired).

*Location: Meet at Whitewater Canyon Preserve*
**Tuesday, March 21st** 9am-noon
*Members $12 / Non-members $17*

**Trek: Bird and Nature Walk at Big Morongo Preserve** (easy walk)
Join us on this easy early morning trek through the most biologically diverse and productive habitat in the desert - the cottonwood and willow riparian community. Although our primary quest is for migratory birds, we will look at anything and everything that comes our way. Wildflowers, trees, frogs, dragonflies, butterflies, mammal scat and tracks. Dress for the weather and be sure to bring snacks, plenty of water, binoculars and a camera, if you like.

*Location: Meet at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve*
**Friday, April 14th** 7:30-11am
*Members $12 / Non-members $17*

**Hike: Pinyon Crest Ecology Hike** (easy hike, some scrambling possible)
This easy hike will spotlight our *elfin forest*, found at elevations above 3000ft. Come enjoy the breathtaking views of the Coachella Valley, as you experience the wonders the Santa Rosa Mountains hold so close to the valley floor - with an interesting history, gorgeous vistas, and a cornucopia of native flora and fauna. Dress for warm weather; bring plenty of water and a snack (if desired).

*Location: We will carpool the short twelve mile drive from The Living Desert.*
**Tuesday, May 2nd** 8-11am
*Members $12 / Non-members $17*
Through our partnership with Smoke Tree Ranch, we are pleased to again offer this very popular Walk & Luncheon series.

Situated on 375 acres at the top of a gently rising alluvial fan and sheltered by the San Jacinto mountains, you will find the historic enclave of homes renowned for its native smoke trees and natural desert landscapes adorned with irreplaceable plants and a kaleidoscope of wildflowers.

Join your Living Desert guide on a themed walk through this desert gem and be awed by breath-taking landscapes while we enjoy the local flora and fauna.

After our morning walk, we will enjoy an amazing noon-time lunch in Smoke Tree Ranch's renowned Ranch House. Definitely an experience not to be missed!

All Walks & Luncheons run from 9am to 1 pm
Bring water & wear comfortable walking clothes

**Member Price $55 / Non-member Price $65**

- Saturday, December 3rd: *Gardens, Landscapes & Luncheon*
- Sunday, January 8th: *Geology, Local History & Luncheon*
- Sunday, January 22nd: *Gardens, Landscapes & Luncheon*
- Thursday, March 16th: *Bird Walk & Luncheon*

**Salton Sea Birding Trips**

Sunday, January 15th  Saturday, January 28th
7:45 am – 5:00 pm (*Carpool*)

**Members: $32; Non-Members: $37**

Located 226 feet below sea level, the Salton Sea is a temporary home to heavy bird migrations. Join Kurt Leuschner and The Living Desert Staff in search of this rich and varied bird life. Leaders will bring spotting scopes. Please be prepared to drive your own vehicle and bring lunch and water. NEW $5.00 per vehicle charge for State Park – so let’s carpool!

**Coachella Valley Natural History Tour**

Wednesday, February 15th
8:00 am – 5:00 pm (*Deluxe motorcoach - loading begins at 7:45am*)

**Members: $75; Non-Members: $95**

Join The Living Desert staff and Harry Quinn, Geologist, Archaeologist, Paleontologist and Historian, on this tour of the Coachella Valley where we will be exploring the valley’s natural wonders: geology, flora, fauna and folktales. Be sure to pack a lunch and desired beverage (light snacks will be offered).
Daytime Events @ TLD

Saturday, October 1st
Year of the Cheetah Launch Celebration

Saturday, October 15th
La Gran Fiesta

Sunday, October 30th
Howl-O-Ween

Saturday, November 5th
Go Native! Day

Sunday, December 4th
International Cheetah Day

Saturday, February 11th
Fairytales and Frogs Day

Saturday, April 15th
Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 22nd
Earth Day

Saturday, May 4th,
Train Day

Friday, May 12th
National Public Gardens Day

Saturday, May 20th
Endangered Species Day Celebration

Wednesday, June 21st
World Giraffe Day

Concerts at the Zoo
On the following Sundays
January: 22nd, 29th
February: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

All of the above listed events are included with admission to the park—making your The Living Desert Membership an even better value!

-Not a Member?
For complete information on member benefits, go to www.LivingDesert.org/membership/
Or call 760-346-5694, ext. 2133
YEAR of the CHEETAH will launch October 1st, 2016

Join us for a special all day event that will bring increased awareness to the plight of cheetahs, and highlight the important worldwide conservation efforts aimed at saving this magnificent animal from extinction.

Mark you calendars, and come find out how you can help!