

# The Living Desert University

Learn at the Zoo

## Tours, Treks, Trips, and Classes

The Living Desert University (LDU) provides opportunities for adults to learn more about our desert biome. We have several outings to the world-renowned Smoke Tree Ranch, as well as themed hikes through our Nature Trails. And for those with a sense of adventure, you can join our Carpool Caravan for a Salton Sea Birding trip in January.

Throughout the year, guests can join zoo staff and volunteers in fun and informative classes taught by The Living Desert's specialized professionals and expert volunteers.

## LDU Tour at Smoke Tree Ranch

*In partnership with Smoke Tree Ranch, we are pleased to offer this very popular Walk & Luncheon series.*

Smoke Tree Ranch is situated on 375 acres in Palm Springs on a gently rising alluvial face landscaped by nature and sheltered by the San Jacinto Mountains. You will discover the historic enclave of homes surrounded by stunning native smoke trees and the natural desert landscape that is adorned with irreplaceable plants and a kaleidoscope of wildflowers (seasonally).

You will join a guide from The Living Desert on a themed walk through this desert gem and experience breathtaking landscapes while enjoying the local flora and fauna. After the morning walk, you will enjoy an amazing lunch in Smoke Tree Ranch's renowned Ranch House. This is definitely an experience not to be missed!

*Bring water and wear comfortable walking clothes.*

All Walks & Luncheons run from 9am to 1pm  
**Member Price \$58 / Non-member Price \$68**

Friday, November 8, 2019:

Bird Walk & Luncheon

Friday, December 13, 2019:

Gardens, Landscapes & Luncheon

Sunday, January 4, 2020:

Geology, Local History & Luncheon

Thursday, February 12, 2020:

Gardens, Landscapes & Luncheon



## Trek: Nature Hike at LDU

Join us on an early morning trek through our pristine Sonoran Desert. Each trek will cover a different topic but be prepared to look at anything and everything from birds to butterflies and smoke trees to wildflowers. Dress for the weather and be sure to bring snacks, plenty of water, binoculars, and a camera, if you like.

Meet at the main Entrance Plaza

**Members \$15 / Non-members \$20**

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 9-10:30am:

Geological Awareness

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 9-11am:

Hiking 101 and Tread Lightly Ethics

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 9-11am:

History of the Nature Trails and Wildlife Identification

## Trip: Birding at the Salton Sea

Located 226 feet below sea level, the Salton Sea is California's largest body of water and a temporary home to over 400 species of migrating birds. Join consummate birder, Kurt Leuschner and The Living Desert staff in search of this rich and varied bird life. Tour leaders will bring spotting scopes. Please be prepared to drive your own vehicle and bring your own lunch and water.

Be advised, there is a \$5-\$7 per vehicle charge for the Salton Sea State Park.

7:45am-5pm: Leaving and Returning to The Living Desert

**Members \$35 / Non-members \$40**

Friday, January 24, 2020

Saturday, February 1, 2020



## Classes and Workshops

Join us for these informative and fun classes! Each LDU session includes an in-class lecture followed by an on-grounds walk (weather permitting). Please bring a bottle of water and dress according to the weather, with comfortable walking shoes.

**Members \$20 / Non-members \$30**

**Our Geological Environment:** Learn more about the geologic forces that created the Coachella Valley and continue to influence valley life today.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 9am-12pm

**Birds 101:** Sign-up for one, or both, of these avian adventures! Each session covers bird basics and includes a bird walk (weather permitting). Please note this is not a species identification class

Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9am-12pm: Focus on Biology

Friday, December 13, 2019, 9am-12pm: Focus on Behavior

Friday, March 6, 2020, 9am-12pm: Focus on Biology

Friday, March 20, 2020, 9am-12pm: Focus on Behavior

**Australian Adventures:** Australia's deserts are home to many different species including birds, wallabies, reptiles, and unique mammals like the bettong and echidna. Join us and learn about our newest habitat's animals and plants.

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 9am-12pm

**Mammals of The Living Desert:** From North American cottontails to African giraffes, learn more about our 'furry' friends.

Friday, January 31, 2020, 1-4pm: Focus on Prey / Herbivores

Friday, February 7, 2020, 1-4pm: Focus on Predators / Carnivores

Saturday, March 14, 2020, 9am-12pm: Focus on Prey / Herbivores

Saturday, March 21, 2020, 9am-12pm: Focus on Predators / Carnivores

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

Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 9am-12pm

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

Sunday, March 15, 2020, 1-4pm

**By visiting The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens and taking part in our education programs, you support our conservation efforts.**

**Thank you!**



## Workshop Series: Plein-Air Painting

Join artist Jan Ketzka for 3 days of Plein-air painting throughout the Zoo. With the sun upon your face, the wind against your skin, and the sounds of nature all around you, you'll learn her techniques for painting vibrant and colorful landscapes in oil. Works created during the week will be part of TLD's Plein-Air Painting exhibition.

*Please note, painting supplies are NOT provided.*

Class size is limited to 10 participants.  
**Members \$245 / Non-members \$260**

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday,  
October 23-25, 2019, 8am-4pm

**For more information, and to book your  
Adventure in Learning, please visit us at  
LivingDesert.org, or contact us at  
LDU@LivingDesert.org;  
(760) 346-5694, ext. 2501.**

## Workshop Series: Potting and Propagation

Spend the morning in our greenhouse getting your hands dirty and learning the specialized techniques that The Living Desert's propagator, Bob Linstead, uses for propagating and growing beautiful native and desert adapted plants. In the first workshop, you will learn the basics of propagation including sowing seeds and taking cuttings. In the second workshop, you will be potting seedlings and learning about different plant species. February can be cold so dress warmly with a coat, hat, and gloves for these outdoor workshops.

*You'll leave with a new appreciation of gardening as well as a few 'samples' you've potted up to take home!*

Participants must enroll in both classes.  
**Members \$60 / Non-members \$80**

Sunday, February 2, 2020, 9am-12pm:  
Introduction to Propagation  
Sunday, February 9, 2020, 9am-12pm:  
Propagation Projects