

RENDEZVOUS 2025 FIELD TRIP DETAILS

This year, we are offering a variety of educational field trips that will pique your curiosity and nourish your “desert rat” soul. Trips will be offered over the span of four days, so if you’d like to attend them all, make plans to be at Goffs from Thursday through Sunday.

Please be advised that the offroad community is now using GMRS radios, which are far superior to a CB (note: GMRS channels 1-7 and 15-22 are compatible with FRS radios). Having your own GMRS radio will enhance your off-road experience because you can enjoy the commentary during the trip and the range of communication is better than FRS. CB’s typically have annoying cross chatter, and antennas that need constant maintenance. GMRS radios can be purchased everywhere (examples: Walmart, Best Buy, Amazon).

THURSDAY – HALF DAY TRIP

Valley Wells, Mescal and Nantan

Educational Field Trip Leader: Debbie Miller Marschke

Inbound trip offered on Thursday only. This is possibly a once-in-a-lifetime exclusive field trip, MDHCA has never had a trip to this location. The historic 1886 mining camp of Mescal, located at Mountain Pass off the I-15, exists on private property. The MDHCA has been granted permission from the landowner to see the historic ruins and artifacts, as well as the original Nantan post office building which is still standing. You will also be entertained to learn the bizarre circumstances that brought the Mescal mining operation to an instant end. We will also visit Valley Wells aka Rosalie and the site of the Yates Ranch and Copper World Mine Smelter (featured in the MDHCA EMHT Ivanpah to Rocky Ridge guidebook). The roads to Mescal and Valley Wells necessitate travel over short stretches of graded dirt roads suitable for most vehicles but not for RVs. Participants with an RV may be able

to park the RV at the Shell Station and arrange a ride with other attendees to the featured locations. The trip ends at I-15 Mountain Pass, attendees can then travel to Goffs on their own on paved highways via the I-15 to Hwy 164 to Searchlight and then on Hwy 95 and Route 66 to Goffs (don't forget to top off your fuel). Dogs must remain in vehicles while visiting Mescal to avoid clashing with the owner's dog. Meet at 1:00 PM, fueled up, fed, and ready to go: Cima Shell Gas Station, 65845 Cima Road, Nipton CA (this is the formal address; it's the only Shell Station located exiting I-15 at Cima Road). Participants can leave for Goffs anytime during this trip, but I expect to arrive at Goffs around 5 pm. Sign up directly with Trip Leader Debbie Miller Marschke no later than Wednesday evening October 8 by emailing debmillermars@gmail.com.

FRIDAY- HALF DAY TRIP, FLEXIBLE (2 SCHEDULES)

Mitchell Caverns: Beyond the Cave

Trip Leaders: Debbie Miller Marschke & Andrew Fitzpatrick

Come and enjoy a tour of Mitchell Caverns – inside and outside. We have arranged for an exclusive tour that has never been offered before and it's been crafted specifically for MDHCA members. We will see items of historical significance that still exist around the grounds of the State Park that the general public does not see. We will also focus on the life of Mary Beal, who arrived in the Mojave Desert in 1910 and broke the glass ceiling by becoming an accomplished self-taught botanist.

Suggested Reading: **Keepers of the Caves by Jack Mitchell**. Read your copy again before this tour, it will greatly enhance your experience OR purchase a copy from the Goffs Schoolhouse Gift Shop to enjoy later at home.

Sign-ups are mandatory for the complementary 2-hour Cavern Tours due to limited space: 15 people per cave tour. Participants can arrange this tour according to their own scheduling needs. Meet at the appropriate time at the Mitchell Caverns Visitor Center (Providence Mountains State Recreation Area). Budget yourselves 1 hour travel time if you depart for this tour from Goffs. Dogs are not allowed inside the caverns.

First Cavern Tour: 10:00 AM – 12:00 pm. Limit 15 people

Second Cavern Tour: 2:00 PM – 4:00 pm. Limit 15 people

Lunch and Learn Program: 12:00 PM – 1:45 PM. Bring your own lunch, chair and a hat. We will begin the initial educational talk at 12:00 Noon while picnicking together. Then the group will be guided around the property by California State Parks Andrew Fitzpatrick, highlighting historical features, buildings, and artifacts that are never included during the public tours. The Lunch and Learn segment does not have a capacity limit – everyone can be accommodated, and participants can leave at any time during Lunch and Learn Program.

All Mitchell Caverns tours sign up with Laura Misajet by phone or text at 760-401-1475, email at MDHCA.goffs@gmail.com. Please indicate which tour; First, Second, or Lunch & Learn.

SATURDAY – HALF DAY TRIP

Lanfair Valley and Bobcat Hills

7:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Trip Leader: Debbie Miller Marschke

This is a brand new tour in the areas within the East Mojave that we have not explored during past Rendezvous. Dennis Casebier was particularly fond of the Lanfair Valley and the people who lived here. The landscape features change many times along this trail, so it's a great snapshot of the Lanfair Valley. We will visit several mining sites, the American Flag cabin, Indian Well and Petroglyphs, and drive a section of the Mojave Road (including a stop at the Penny Can – don't forget to bring one). High Clearance is a must but the trail can be done in 2WD. The trail is brushy in some spots, desert pinstriping on your vehicle is a possibility due to the many creosote bushes along the trail. We encourage carpooling so please arrange your own carpool ahead of time. Line up at 7:45 AM in front of the Schoolhouse. **Trip leaves promptly at 8:00 AM so be ready to roll.** No lunch break on this trip – bring snacks if you can't wait until you get back to Goffs. Dogs and kids ok but be prepared to deal with cholla cacti if you allow them to roam. Leader will be using GMRS

radio so bring yours if you have one. Sign up in the Schoolhouse or directly with Laura Misajet by phone or text at 760-401-1475 or email at MDHCA.goffs@gmail.com.

SUNDAY TRIPS

Hidden Hill Mine & Bighorn Mine in the Providence Mountains

Educational Field Trip Leaders: Danny & Norma Siler

The focus of this trip are these two gold mines and mill ruins. This area was highly active in the years between 1894 and 1919, and work continued into the 1940s. There are concrete and stone ruins, shafts, adits and remains of the mill works. The cabin at the Bighorn Mine has been restored by the NPS. A high-clearance vehicle is required and four-wheel drive is recommended. Rugged tires are a must. To see the best one of the mill ruins requires a bit of a hike. It takes approximately 45 minutes round-trip to hike, walk around the ruins, and come back to the vehicles. Plan on a full day and bring your lunch. This is an all-day trip that will return to Goffs around 4 pm. Meet in front of the Schoolhouse. Leader will be using GMRS radio. Details to follow. Limited to 7 vehicles. Sign up in the Schoolhouse at registration or with Laura Misajet by phone or text at 760-401-1475, or email at MDHCA.goffs@gmail.com

Old Woman Mountains and Sunflower Springs

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Educational Field Trip Leader: Steve Marschke

This trip is an old favorite that is requested frequently. We will venture into the Old Woman Mountains on the EMHT to Sunflower Springs. Additional stops and features will be included at the leader's discretion. Disclaimer: this trip has not been pre-run, so leader is not responsible for the quality of the route or trail damage encountered. High Clearance, 4WD needed. This is an all-day trip that will return to Goffs around 4pm. No fuel stops – be prepared. Meet along Lanfair Road at 8:00 AM. Pack a lunch and water. Sign up in the Schoolhouse at registration or with Laura Misajet by phone or text at 760-401-1475 or email at MDHCA.goffs@gmail.com.

Carruthers Canyon: After the fire

8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Educational Field Trip Leader: Debbie Miller Marschke

We will visit Carruthers Canyon, which is now in recovery stages after being ravaged by the York fire. The July 2023 fire had catastrophic consequences, so expect to see an eerie doomscape. However, less vegetation means that more of the picturesque geology is visible. Recent monsoons have left the roads extremely rocky and sandy, so 4WD and High Clearance is necessary. This is a half-day trip expected to return to Goffs around noon. Meet in front of the Cross. Limited to 7 vehicles.

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