



JPL HIKING +

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CHINA LAKE PETROGLYPH TOUR & CAMPOUT

(including tours of the U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology and the Maturango Museum)

Saturday & Sunday, October 2–3 & October 9-10)

LEADERS: Nancy Feagans, 818-354-8341 (Nancy.Feagans@jpl.nasa.gov) and
Dan Lee, 818-393-4797 (Daniel.J.Lee@jpl.nasa.gov)

CLASSIFICATION: I-II; No children under the age of 10

TRIP LIMIT (People/Vehicles): 16/4 each trip **COST:** None; Travel and Motel (Friday night) expense only

CAVEAT: *Trips to this area can be canceled (up to the last minute) due to weather and road conditions and/or testing.*

Background: The Club's last tour to this spectacular area was in April 2000. We had scheduled another tour in 2002, but it was canceled due to the events of 9-11. The Naval Air Weapons Station at China Lake has recently re-opened the area for tours, and we are fortunate to have reserved two consecutive weekends for a tour and campout! *(You may also arrange for a day tour of the petroglyph site through the Marurango Museum at a cost of \$35 per person, but with no overnight camping option).*

Description: The largest display of ancient rock art that has been discovered to date can be found in Little Petroglyph Canyon (known as "Renegade Canyon" on topographic maps). Located in the Coso Mountains within the Naval Air Weapons Station at China Lake, the mile and a half long canyon has literally thousands of well-preserved petroglyphs, some of which have been dated up to 16,000 years old. Learn more about this fascinating area by visiting the following web sites:

<http://www.nawcwpns.navy.mil/~pao/pg/Ptroglyph.htm>

<http://www.myerchinphoto.com/ChinaLakePetroglyphs.html>

<http://www.maturango.org/>

http://www.desertusa.com/mag98/mar/poi/feb_matmustour.html

This is a repeat of a popular trip run in previous years with special permission to stay overnight in the Coso Mountains. We'll leave Friday after work and stay in Ridgecrest in order to get an early start Saturday morning. After breakfast, we'll meet our escorts at the main gate to the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station and caravan to Little Pet Canyon. This is a rugged area, and you will have to negotiate around a variety of rocks and boulders to enter the canyon. We'll spend Saturday exploring and photographing the rock art, stopping for a lunch break mid-day. Late afternoon we'll caravan to Birchum Springs Campground, where we'll camp with our escorts Saturday night. Note that camping is primitive at Birchum Springs. There is no running water, so you must bring your own. There are picnic tables and a large shade ramada, a pit toilet, and some campfire rings. If we want a fire, we will need to bring our own firewood. None of the wood in the area may be used for campfires. Sunday morning we'll have breakfast, pack up, and follow our escorts to the **U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology:** <http://www.nawcwg.navy.mil/~pao/pg/Museum.htm>. Finally, we'll be escorted to the main gate, stopping by the **Maturango Museum** in Ridgecrest on the way home.

Requirements/Limitations: **Non-US Citizens may not be allowed on tours depending upon Force Protection Conditions.** If you are not a U.S. citizen and want to go on this trip, you **must** let us know **ASAP** so we can submit the required forms to the NAWS Public Affairs Office. Please note that **all** trip participants will need to provide their name, SSN, date and place of birth.

Bring: The usual car camping gear, a trail lunch and a dish to share for the potluck dinner Saturday night, breakfast Sunday, WATER, day hiking gear, hat, warm layered clothes, sturdy shoes or hiking boots, sunscreen and sunglasses, and camera and/or binoculars. Firewood is welcome if you have the car space.

Pre-Trip Meeting: **Noon-1 p.m. Monday, August 16, 2004** in the **171-351** conference room. You must be there or be represented to go on this trip. **Priority is to Hiking + members and their guests.** In case the trip(s) are over-subscribed, the Hiking + policy will apply (i.e., a lottery for too many). You will also be required to sign the standard **Caltech Liability Waiver**.

RSVP: Please detach and return the slip below to: Dan Lee, M/S 601-157

Yes! I want to go see the **China Lake Petroglyphs**. Sign me up for ___ people. I can drive and can take ___ people or I need transportation for ___ people.

Name _____ Phone _____ M/S _____ (Guests names on back)

If you have any questions, please call the trip leaders.