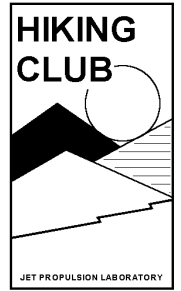


JPL HIKING CLUB

www.jplerc.org/hiking/hiking.html



Navajo National Monument Backpack

Monday - Wednesday; May 29-31, 2000 (Plus driving time from L.A.)

Trip Coordinator: Susan Merrill, 354-9209

Cost: \$10 for club members, \$15.00 for non-members Difficulty: Moderate/Strenuous (III-IV)

Distance: 8.5 miles one way Elevation Loss/Gain: 1,000+ feet (Trailhead is at 7,300')

Limit: 8 overnight hikers (possibly more if enough interest), no pets.

No alcohol allowed since this trip traverses the Navajo Nation.

Description: Here is your chance to visit one of the more interesting areas in the National Park system. Navajo National Monument houses one of the largest cliff dwellings in Arizona. The Keet Seel ruins are only open from Memorial Day to Labor Day and there is a limit of 20 people per day who can visit the ruins. I led this trip last year and had a wonderful time.

The overnight backpack starts from the Visitor's Center at Navajo National Monument and follows an arroyo 8.5 miles to the Keet Seel ruins. The trail descends 1,000 feet near the trailhead (including a steep sand bank) and then crosses the arroyo and streambed numerous times. There is a possibility of getting your feet wet, so plan accordingly.

The temperatures in May can range from 50 - 100 degrees F. Please pack accordingly. We also must carry all the water we will need for the trip. Do not plan on utilizing local water sources. (Water can be stashed along the route for the return trip. Bring suitable containers.)

When we reach the ruins, we will check in with the resident ranger who will lead groups of 5 people on a visit thru Keet Seel ruins. NOTE - Hiking boots are not allowed inside the ruins. Please bring a pair of Tevas or running shoes to use while touring the ruins. The remainder of the day is yours to relax, however you will be restricted to the campground area unless you get a permit from the Navajo Nation beforehand.

The next day, we retrace our steps to the trailhead. Our permit is for May 30, 2000 only. There is also a 5 mile (5-6 hour) tour of Betatakin ruin near the Visitor's Center which can be done either the day before or after the backpack. There is a limit of 25 people/day for Betatakin, first come first served.

Bring: Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, water for 2 days (1+ gallon/day), water filter, well broken in shoes or boots, *tevas or running shoes to explore the ruins*, warm layered clothing, sleeping bag, food, stove, fuel, cookware, camera, film, tent, raingear, gloves, bug repellent, moleskin, first aid kit, etc.

Trip Arrangements: Contact the trip coordinator to sign up for the trip. I'll keep you posted on the details of the trip and any other info I may have. I will secure a campground at the park for the evening of May 29. Carpools, gear and cooking arrangements will be worked out at the pre-trip meeting.

We MUST be on the trail by 9 a.m. on May 30th. We also need to attend an orientation meeting either at 4:30 p.m. on Monday or at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday morning before we leave. Please plan for this in your arrival time.

Directions: This relatively unknown park is in northern Arizona approximately 100 miles north of Flagstaff. I strongly suggest either taking additional time to explore the surrounding area or to arrange a carpool with others. (I will be in Nevada before the trip and not available for carpooling.) I estimate the drive from JPL to be ~600 miles and take a full day. With all the wonderful places to visit in the area, I would certainly encourage you to take some additional time and visit the area.

PRE-TRIP MEETING: May 23, 2000 301-227

Clip and return to Susan Merrill at M/S 601-225 or email at susan.merrill@jpl.nasa.gov

I and _____ others (list all names on the back) would like to go and a) _____ I can drive and have additional room for _____ others. b) _____ I need rides for _____ backpackers.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ M/S: _____ Email: _____

If you have any questions, please call the trip leader at x4-9029.