



ROCK CLIMBING & BOULDERING



It's exciting and challenging to stare up the face of a wall of rock as you ascend and rely on your wits and determination to reach the top. In free climbing, each discovered handhold and foothold is a victory that propels you forward. Every climb is a chance to learn more about yourself and your gear. But this seemingly simple combination of rope and harness is quite technical. Newcomers need to take climbing classes and learn precautions to avoid becoming an unfortunate statistic.

Rock climbing is the form of recreation credited with bringing the largest number of visitors to Joshua Tree National Park each year. The park has a worldwide reputation for its granite rockscapes and thousands of routes. There are other climbing sites in the desert, but none have the support services and climbing organizations that are concentrated in Joshua Tree.

Like surfers, rock climbers have their own lingo and personal style. As climbing has grown in popularity, new specializations have emerged. Bouldering is a free-form style that is distinct from traditional and sport rock climbing. It generally attracts younger participants and embodies a

riskier anarchy in the types of techniques and routes selected. The descent is made without a rope, and a large pad is placed at the base of the climb to break a fall. To minimize the damage to natural resources, bouldering pads should not interfere with the native vegetation, and chalk lines need to be cleaned; at no time should climbing be done in an area with petroglyphs.

Climbing reinforces trust and cooperation. You'll hear participants refer to "the climbing community" because they rely upon one another for safety and the development of new techniques. In its mission statement, the Friends of Joshua Tree "encourages ethical and environmentally sound climbing practices." In cooperation with the Access Fund, these groups are helping to preserve and restore vegetation near popular climbing sites, define appropriate bolting and rappelling anchors on the climbing routes, and reduce the proliferation of social trails.

Books and Online Resources for Rock Climbing and Bouldering can be found at http://www.npca.org/desert_recreation/climbing.pdf and on page 46 of this report.



ABOVE

Crack climb

PHOTO © SAM ROBERTS

RIGHT

Leaping Leaner climbing route

PHOTO © SAM ROBERTS

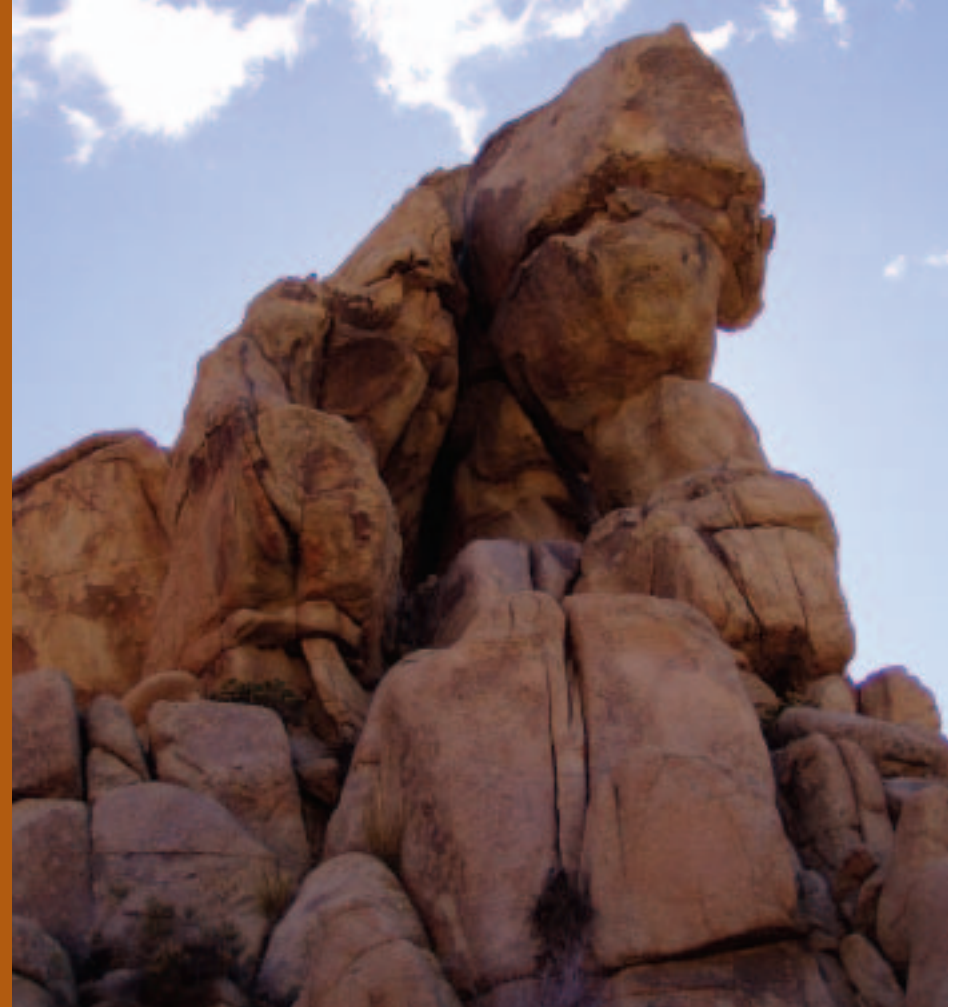
PERSONAL PROFILE

Lisa Evans

MOTHER AND OUTDOOR EDUCATOR

Lisa Evans started rock climbing as a teen and earned her undergraduate degree in Outdoor Education twenty years ago. In the interim, motherhood became her priority. A few years ago, she took a 10-day first responder wilderness course with one of her four children. This inspired her to re-examine her earlier passion for the outdoors during a month long course at the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). The NOLS experience included ten intensive and exhilarating days of rock climbing in Arizona. From that point on, Lisa knew that she would have to find opportunities to leave Orange County on the weekends and visit Joshua Tree National Park as often as possible. With the assistance of Markus Jolliff, an experienced climber and mountain guide, she regained confidence, expertise, and an awareness of how to pursue climbing in a responsible way. She loves the precision of movement and connection with the land that climbing gives her. Even more importantly, she loves the way climbing has become a family sport and a way to bond over the Christmas holiday.

For anyone interested in climbing, Lisa recommends classes through the Desert Institute and Leave No Trace to build a strong ethic about respecting the desert. She also feels that new climbers will benefit from instruction through a qualified guide service. As she pointed out, "There's lots of life in the desert."



[HTTP://WWW.NPCA.ORG / DESERT_RECREATION / CLIMBING.PDF](http://www.npca.org/desert_recreation/climbing.pdf)



ABOVE

Lost Horse Boulders in Joshua Tree National Park

PHOTO BY D. A. DEMEO

FAR LEFT

Climber Lisa Evans and her family in Joshua Tree

PHOTO BY MARKUS JOLLIFF

LEFT

Chiraco Summit on southern side of Joshua Tree National Park

PHOTO © SAM ROBERTS

ROCK CLIMBING & BOULDERING

BOOKS AND ONLINE RESOURCES

SUGGESTED BOOKS:

Rock Climbing Joshua Tree, Randy Vogel, Falcon Press, 2000

Joshua Tree Bouldering, Mari Gingery, Quail Springs Publishing, 2000

The Trad Guide to Joshua Tree: 60 Favorite Climbs from 5.5 to 5.9, Charlie and Diane Winger, Colorado Mountain Club Press, 2004

A Complete Bouldering Guide to Joshua Tree National Park, Robert Miramontes, K. Daniels and Associates, 2003

WEB SITES:

Climbing Joshua Tree (<http://www.climbingjtree.com>)

Friends of Joshua Tree (<http://www.friendsofjosh.org>)

Joshua Tree Climb (<http://www.joshuatreeclimb.com>)

Joshua Tree Rock Climbing School (<http://www.joshuatreerockclimbing.com>)

Joshua Tree Outfitters (<http://www.joshuatreeoutfitters.com>)

Nomad Ventures (<http://www.joshuatreevillage.com/515/515.htm>)

