

Visitor Information – Desert Studies Center

Please review the following information before your visit, and bring it with you to the Center, should you need to refer to the directions or phone numbers listed.

Directions to the Desert Studies Center

The Desert Studies Center is located in the Mojave National Preserve near Baker, California. Those coming from most of southern California will take Interstate 15 to Barstow; from northern and central California, take Hwy 58 from Bakersfield to Barstow. From Barstow, take I-15 towards Las Vegas to the Zzyzx Road exit (about 60 miles), and turn right. Those coming through Las Vegas, Nevada, will take I-15 about 90 miles to the Zzyzx Road exit (about 6 miles past Baker) and turn left. Zzyzx Road is paved, except for a short section, and should be driven at the posted speed limit to avoid hitting wildlife on or crossing the road, including Bighorn sheep. The road is 4.5 miles, and terminates at the Center. Once at the Center, park and make contact with the Manager for orientation and room assignment (if necessary go to the office door and page him). Members of classes visiting the Center are asked to arrive with or after their instructors; those arriving early may be asked to wait until their instructor arrives. If you cannot arrive at the Center before 10 P.M. you must call the Manager at the number listed below.

What to Bring to the Desert Studies Center

Essential items:

Sleeping bag or blankets & sheets
pillow
flashlight, spare bulb & batteries
boots or sturdy walking shoes
toilet articles & towel
winter: layered clothing & gloves

Desirable items:

sunscreen, sunglasses and hat
refillable water container
binoculars, hand lens & camera
alarm clock
extra set of car keys
first aid kit

Some visitors will want to consider bringing field guides and reference materials, maps, specialized laboratory or field equipment, field safety items, required permit(s) if any, and instructional materials such as videotapes, software and overhead transparencies. The nearest sources of dry goods and automotive supplies are in Baker where prices are high and selection is limited. Plan to bring any extra supplies you anticipate needing or purchase them en route.

Who to Contact

If you have any questions, or need to contact the Center, call 714-732-8326 (Manager's cell phone). Other numbers which may be useful:

Emergency Services - 911
AAA (800) 400-4222
A-1 Towing (Baker) (760) 733-4380
CA Highway Patrol (760) 256-1617

Mojave National Preserve – (760) 252-6102
Kelso Depot (Park Service)- (760) 252-6124
BLM/NPS Ranger dispatch (909) 383-5651/5652
San Bernardino Co. Sheriff (760) 256-4838