

Preparing for the Expedition & Program

Headquarters

- California State University Desert Studies Center
- Zzyzx, CA (which is ~12 miles south of Baker, CA)
- <http://nsm.fullerton.edu/dsc/>

Directions

From CPP:

- East on I-10
- North on I-15
- Exit on Zzyzx Rd. (after Barstow, just before Baker, CA)
- South on Zzyzx Rd.
- Facility is at road's end

Weather at Zzyzx

The average temperatures for March and April in Baker, CA range from 46-53°F to 75-83°F (Baker, CA is ~12 miles by road north of Zzyzx, CA). However, when exploring the Mojave National Preserve and other areas of the Mojave desert, we often experience higher temperatures during the day of high 80's to low 90's. Also, while the average precipitation in Baker, CA is very low (0.2-0.67 in/month), there remains a possibility for rainfall when in the desert. See the following websites for current weather and forecasts, as well information regarding weather averages:

Current Weather and Forecasts

<http://www.yourweatherservice.com/weather/baker/united-states/usca0061>

Average Weather Data

<http://www.usclimatedata.com/climate/baker/california/united-states/usca0061>

Precautions

Don't forget, you will be in the desert – and exposed to very dry and intense sun conditions. Also, the sunlight in the desert reflects off rocks and soil to make exposure conditions even more intense. Sunblock, brimmed hat, and protective clothing are super important considerations. At nightfall, temperatures will drop to ~ 46-53°F, so a reasonable jacket, hoodie, and other warm clothing accessories are also important considerations. Lastly, given the natural potential for rain, a lightweight rain jacket with hood is recommended.

What to expect

- Long days with lots of learning and experimenting...
- To be dirty by day's end, and ratty by week's end...
- Dormitory style lodging with your own bed
- Electricity in the rooms and facility
- WiFi connections throughout the facility
- Semi-reliable cellular connection at the facility
- Unreliable cellular connections when in the field

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- Carpooling with potentially limited space for bags (pack accordingly!)
- Basic camping facilities for those camping or in a RV (no electrical hookups, etc.)
- Nocturnal animals & insects, who inhabit or chew on shoes, bags, and anything left on ground/floor
- Potential space in the refrigerator space for a few personal items
- Access to facility gift store (!) – t-shirts, hats, postcards etc.
- Federal restrictions on sampling – so ask before removing anything from the desert!!

What To Bring

- **Hiking Shoes**
 - Sturdy, good support, and comfortable
 - lots of walking (sometimes over rough/rocky terrain)
 - will get dirty!
- **Sandals**
 - For lounging around the facility
 - For the showers (flip-flops)
- **Sleeping bag (and/or bed sheets)**
- **Pillow**
- **Wide-brimmed Hat**
- **Lightweight long pants**
 - Shorts may be worn but will not protect against sunburn and scratches from rocks and bushes
- **Sunglasses**
- **Lightweight long sleeve shirts.**
- **Warm jacket**
- **Winter/Warm Hat**
- **2 refillable water bottles**
- **Flashlight!!!!!!**
- **Sunblock**
- **Lotion for dry skin**
- **Towels**
- **Toiletries & Medications**
- **Backpack/Daypack**
- **Camera**