Pala Chief Mine Visitor Information Package

Thank you for your interest in the Pala Chief Mine Dig. The Pala Chief Digs are a unique opportunity to go through the old mine dumps and work on an exposed pegmatite vein with your own hand tools. This document will provide you with all of the instructions you need to ensure that you will have a great visit to the Pala Chief. Please read it carefully, and be sure to complete the release of liability form before you arrive. You will need to complete one copy of the form for each person that attends the dig. Please note that if you have already completed a form during the current calendar year, you will not need to provide us with another copy.

Our Facilities
The Pala Chief Digs take place at the top of Chief Mountain, away from the primary facilities of the Oceanview fee dig. We provide rides down the bathroom facilities as needed, but be prepared to 'rough it' at a Pala Chief Dig. The dig is off of a dirt road. While you do not need a 4WD vehicle, you should also not bring a car with low clearance, such as a sports car. A typical family car is fine, but expect to get it a little dusty!

What is the cost?
The standard fee is $75 per person; the Chief Digs are restricted to children 12 years or older. Please bring exact cash for your fee as our remote location prevents us from using credit cards or taking checks at the gate.
We can only accept CASH at the mine.

Who do I contact with questions?
If you have any questions or need to cancel your reservation, please call the fee dig hosts. As the host can vary, you should have this information on hand before departing for the dig. The latest information can be found in our Pala Chief Blog at http://www.DigForGems.com, including the contact information for your host.

What does the dig include?
Unlike the Oceanview fee dig, the Pala Chief Digs are 'self-serve' digs. You need to bring all of your own equipment. What you get is unfettered access to the rich dumps of the Pala Chief.

What should you bring?
You need to bring a copy of the release of liability form for each person attending the dig, and exact cash for your fee. Unfortunately, due to the remote location we can't take checks or credit cards on site at this point.

Please bring plenty of water and any food that you will need. You should bring either small plastic containers or ziplock baggies to hold your finds.
Recommended Tools:
Since you are working directly on the mine dumps as well as an open pegmatite vein, we suggest that you bring the following equipment: A small shovel, a garden weeding rake, rock hammer and chisels (especially if you are planning to work the pegmatite vein), and a screen to sort gravel.

How should we dress?
You should wear sturdy shoes or boots—no sandals, please! We recommend long pants for the Chief Digs as you will potentially be in some brush if you want to work the old dumps. Be prepared to get dirty, so you might want to bring a change of clothes; you can change in the bathrooms when you're done digging. We strongly recommend that you use ample sunscreen and bring a hat and sunglasses. To protect your hands from sharp rocks and the water, we strongly recommend that you bring gloves. The best gloves are either dishwashing gloves or rubber-coated gardening gloves. These will give you a good grip and yet protect your hands.

Please be prompt! SHOW UP AT 8AM SHARP!!!!
We begin the digs promptly at 9:00am with an orientation session. As a result, its very important that you show up on time so that we aren't delayed. We suggest that you arrive between 8:00-8:15; we will close the gate then and head up to the top of the hill. Arriving on time will give you time to pay and get set up before the orientation. If you are late, you may miss the dig entirely or be forced to wait to dig while we make sure those who have showed up on time get their orientation.

Directions and Map
Please do not try to use a GPS system for getting to the mine; we are on a side road and not in most GPS systems. The best thing to do is to carefully read the directions below and print them out and have them on hand. We are about a five to ten-minute drive from the Pala Casino. If you wish to use your GPS system, set it for the casino and then navigate with our directions for the remaining few miles.

Coming south from the Los Angeles area on Interstate 15: We recommend exiting in Temecula on CA 79 South (Temecula Parkway); the mine is approximately a 25-30 minute drive from the exit. Turn left at the bottom of the exit from 15 and drive approximately 0.8 miles and then turn right onto Pechanga Parkway. Pechanga Parkway will turn into Pala Road and then Pala-Temecula road; just stay on this road for approximately 9 miles until you reach the town of Pala. In Pala, the road will end at a stop sign. At the stop sign, turn left and drive 0.5 miles until you intersect with CA 76. Turn left onto CA 76 and travel for 0.5 miles and then turn left onto Magee Road. Magee Road is poorly marked, so watch carefully; when you pass the entrance to the Pala Raceway you are almost there; Magee Road is the next left just 0.1 miles up the road. You will wind through orange groves on the way to our entrance, which is 2 miles up Magee Road, on your left. There is a sign out along the road. Pull in and head up the road; you will be met by one of the dig hosts to collect your fee and papers.
Coming north from the San Diego area on Interstate 15: Exit 15 north onto CA 76 east, heading towards Pala. The town of Pala is approximately 6 miles from 15. When you get to the traffic light at the Pala Casino, make a note of your odometer; the next turn from there will be left onto Magee Road, 1.6 miles from the traffic light. Magee Road is poorly marked, so watch carefully; when you pass the entrance to the Pala Raceway you are almost there; Magee Road is the next left just 0.1 miles up the road. You will wind through orange groves on the way to our entrance, which is 2 miles up Magee Road, on your left. There is a sign out along the road. Pull in and head up the road; you will be met by one of the dig hosts to collect your fee and papers.

The map below shows our location with a red dot in reference to Interstate 15, CA 76 and the Pala-Temecula Road. You can see this view in Google Maps by entering the following URL into your browser: http://goo.gl/maps/5iGLt.

Find us on Google Maps

PALA CHIEF MINE

Courtesy!
The orange groves you travel through are private property. Please do not stop and pick fruit—respect our neighbors! There are fruit stands in Pala that sell fresh local fruit—support the local farmers and buy from them.
Frequently Asked Questions

Please take the time to read this carefully if you have any questions. If you can't find what you're looking for, please use the "Contact Us" form to send us an email and we'll do our best to answer your question(s) as quickly as possible.

Who do I call?

Questions, changes, add or cancel, if your dig is a sun both OceanView or Pala Chief or Miner’s Inn. Jeff Swanger is your host (760) 415-9143 all questions, add-on’s, or cancellation requests.

What days are you open?

See our calendar at DigForGems.com. Pala Chief Mine is open Every other Sunday.

Can I leave early?

Yes, you can leave at any time. You payed for the entire time, but you are not required to be there the entire time.

What about weather?

Please check the local forecast for Pala, CA and plan your visit accordingly. We are typically open rain or shine. If for some reason we close because of extreme weather or another act of God please review the yellow box on our website or follow us on facebook. We will post information on those two sites.
Where are you located?
We are located just east of the town of Pala, California, in San Diego County. We don't give a precise location as our address is not in most GPS systems, and too many people get lost. We're also only open a few days of the week, and because we're an active mine we can't have people showing up when the public dig is closed. (see map on page 3).

What time do I arrive?
For Pala Chief: 8am SHARP!, you may miss the dig, as we typically close the gate at that time.

What do I need to bring?
We have the details on this on the "All About the Dig" page on digforgems.com. However, in short, we suggest plenty of water, sunscreen, gardening gloves (preferably with rubber or nitrile-coated fingers and palms), some ziplock baggies or containers for your gems and lunch. We provide the rest.

Can I bring my pet?
No, unfortunately due to liability issues we can't allow pets. If you require a service animal, please use the "Contact Us" form to email us and we can work with you to accommodate this.

What can I find?
Please see the "What Can I Find?" page on digforgems.com to see what you can find at the dig.

Do I have to pay for gems that I find?
NO! That's the wonderful thing--you can keep anything you find. We've had people find gems worth many of thousands of dollars on the pile, and all it costs you is the base fee for the dig.

IMPORTANT NOTES:
* We accept CASH at the mine. No credit cards.
* No "lookers". All reservations must be PAYED.
* NO PETS PERIOD FOR INSURANCE REASONS. THIS IS NOT NEGOTIABLE. PLEASE DONT RESERVE WITH THIS INTENT.
* Anyone 12 years of age and older is considered an adult. Younger than 12 are allowed, but PLEASE watch your children and obey all rules.
* Infants (1-4 years old) are no charge and adult SUPERVISION is required for all children (<12 years old) Kids 5-11 are $50/each.
* We are OPEN on listed days ONLY pending weather.
* PRINT THIS VIP Packet for each attendee and bring them with you.
* Bring proper clothing for outdoors. Click main page weather link to check weather.

Disclaimer: A reservation request does NOT guarantee your visit. The only guarantee is if YOU get an email within a few days and then a phone call the week of your visit from the mine owner. If I is close to your visit date and you've not heard anything, it's because we simply can't reach you. We wil only try to make contact a few times so be diligent.
RELEASE OF LIABILITY
READ CAREFULLY - THIS AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

In exchange for participation in the activity of screening for gems organized by Oceanview Mine, LLC ("Oceanview Mine"), of 37304 Magee Road, Pala, California, 90259 and/or use of the property, facilities and services of Oceanview Mine, I agree for myself and (if applicable) for the members of my family, to the following:

1. I agree to observe and obey all posted rules and warnings, and further agree to follow any oral instructions or directions given by Oceanview Mine, or the employees, representatives or agents of Oceanview Mine.

2. I recognize that there are certain inherent risks associated with the above described activity and I assume full responsibility for personal injury to myself and (if applicable) my family members, and further release and discharge Oceanview Mine for injury, loss or damage arising out of my or my family's use of or presence upon the facilities of Oceanview Mine, whether caused by the fault of myself, my family, Oceanview Mine or other third parties.

3. I agree to indemnify and defend Oceanview Mine against all claims, causes of action, damages, judgments, costs or expenses, including attorney fees and other litigation costs, which may in any way arise from my or my family's use of or presence upon the facilities of Oceanview Mine.

4. Any legal or equitable claim that may arise from participation in the above shall be resolved under California law.

I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT AND UNDERSTAND IT. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS RELEASE, I VOLUNTARILY SURRENDER CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS

Dated: ________________

Signature: __________________________________________

Participant: __________________________

Address: ________________________________

In case of an emergency, please call ____________ (Relationship: ____________) at _______________ Ext. ______________ (Day), or _______________ Ext. ______________ (Evening).
Thank you for reading the entire Visitor Information Packet (VIP). Please confirm your dig by visiting:

http://digforgems.com/confirm-your-dig

By doing this you will also be enrolled in a drawing for a chance to win a free 'future' dig at OceanView mine. This will be for one adult and for one of our open days. The contest winner will be contacted and announced in early January on our FaceBook page at:

http://facebook.com/OceanviewMine