

**Field Trip to the Himalaya Tourmaline Mine**  
**December 13, 2014 — 10am to 3pm**  
**Dig Your Own Stones**

**What:** Tourmaline Dig Field Trip.

**Where:** We are planning a field trip to the world's most famous tourmaline mine, the Himalaya Mine near beautiful Lake Henshaw in San Diego County, 20 miles east of Pala.

**Access:** You can drive to within about 200 feet of the area, mostly on paved road.

**Minerals:** Pink, green and watermelon tourmalines are what the mine is known for. Some other minerals found here are quartz crystals, apatite, morganite, clevelandite, calcite, lepidolite, feldspar, stibiotantalite, topaz, and spessartine garnet.

**Details:** Over 200,000 pounds of quality ore have been produced here since 1898. The miners tunnel into the pegmatite in search of rich pockets of tourmalines. Small pockets and individual gemstones are carried out with the overburden dirt and rocks. Now, the mine operators bring dump truck loads of the overburden material down the hill to a flat area to allow easier access for the public.

“Digging” involves shoveling ore-containing dirt into your 3 or 5-gallon bucket and pouring it into a sifting screen on a wooden bench. The results have been quite good in the past. The mine operators provide buckets, shovels, sifting screens, a tub of water to rinse the dirt off of the gravel and a table to set everything on.

**Cost:** This is a fee-to-dig location. The fee for our group is \$50 for adults, \$25 for children ages 13-17 and children 12 years old and younger are free. All paid attendees will receive a raffle ticket for a special gem prize from the mine owners.

**Reserve A Space:** Space on this field trip is limited to the first 30 people who confirm. A list of names will be on the list provided to the mine operators. Mark Nelson, of the Pasadena Lapidary Society, will coordinate the trip. **Contact him to reserve a place for you, your friends and family.** (909) 996-1784 or [mnelsonair@aol.com](mailto:mnelsonair@aol.com).

**What you need:** lunch, shoes that can get muddy, sun hat, gloves, a quart slide-lock plastic sandwich bag to put your finds in, an old toothbrush for scrubbing the crystal stones, and plenty of drinking water. They will provide all tools for digging at no extra charge!

**Also available:** Buckets of very high grade gem pocket ore are available from a very rich area in the mine which can be taken home for screening. Faceted gemstones including Himalaya Mine tourmalines and Oregon Sunstones are also available for purchase on site.

**Driving:** This is an easy one-day field trip! Plan on driving about 2 ½ hours each way from Pasadena. If you have a GPS, you can use the Lake Henshaw Resort, 26439 Highway 76, Santa Ysabel, CA as a destination. Carpooling is recommended. The fuel cost is expected to be \$40 round trip, so passengers can share the cost. Leave early and grab breakfast in Temecula! Once you are at Lake Henshaw Resort you will need to go into the store (across from the lake and in the same building as the restaurant) and ask for the mine dig. They cashier will give you a code and directions. The dig is on the far side of the camping resort from the entrance. Look for signs that read “PLS”.

**Overnights:** For those who want to come a day early, there is tent and trailer camping at the Lake Henshaw resort campground. <http://www.lakehenshawresort.com> 760-782-3501

There is also Harrah's Resort Southern California where you can stay at the Casino Hotel at 777 Harrah's Resort Southern California Way, Valley Center, CA 92082. Tel: (760) 751-3100

## Himalaya Mine Dig Site

From Pasadena, take the 210 Freeway east to I-15 south toward San Diego.

Pass Temecula and look for CA Hwy 76, east toward Pala.

Continue 30.5 miles on Hwy 76 to the Lake Henshaw Resort.

Once you are at Lake Henshaw Resort you will need to go into the store (across from the lake and in the same building as the restaurant) and ask for the mine dig. They cashier will give you a code and directions.

These are basic directions. Slightly shorter routes can be found by entering directions to Lake Henshaw, San Ysabel in Mapquest.com.

