

June 18, 2016 — 10am to 3pm
Field Trip to the Himalaya Tourmaline Mine
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. **Because of the popularity of this trip, and the limited number of spaces available, this trip is for members only. Guests may be placed on the “waiting list” and cleared to attend if space becomes available.**
- Access:** You can drive to within about 200 feet of the area, mostly on paved or maintained dirt 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 25 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 your place. (909) 996-1784 or pasadenalapidary@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: Bags of high grade gem pocket ore are available for purchase which can be taken home for screening. Faceted gemstones including Himalaya Mine tourmalines and Oregon Sunstones are also available for purchase on site.