

Death Valley National Park

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Death Valley News Release

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Death Valley National Park Is Open

Superintendent J.T. Reynolds states, "The rumors that Death Valley National Park is closed until January are not true." The National Park Service wishes to make it clear that Death Valley is open to the public with the exception of two routes into the park.

Due to the severity of the flash flood that hit the park on August 14-15, 2004, the following routes are still closed:

- California Highway 190 from Death Valley Junction to Furnace Creek.
- Badwater Road from Shoshone, California (Highway 178) to Furnace Creek.

All other park roads are open. Visitor service facilities at Furnace Creek, Stovepipe Wells, Scotty's Castle and Panamint Springs are open. Motels, restaurants, gift shops, and gas stations are available to visitors.

"It is estimated that the Badwater Road from Shoshone (Highway 178) to Furnace Creek will be open within the next 2 to 4 weeks. Road crews from Death Valley National Park, Zion National Park and CalTrans Department of Transportation are working daily to open the southern route through the park," explained Superintendent Reynolds. However, State Highway 190 from Death Valley Junction to Furnace Creek will take several months to rebuild as a number of miles of the roadway were washed away.

Visitors traveling from Nevada can enter the park from Highway 95 at Beatty, Nevada (Highway 374) or Scotty's Junction on Route 267. All roads going west out of the park are open.

We want to ensure the traveling public that the majority of this crown jewel of the desert is open for their enjoyment. Every effort is being made to re-open all areas of the park as soon as possible. Please respect road closures and observe posted speed limits. Road updates can be found on the park's web site at www.nps.gov/deva or by calling 760-786-3200.

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