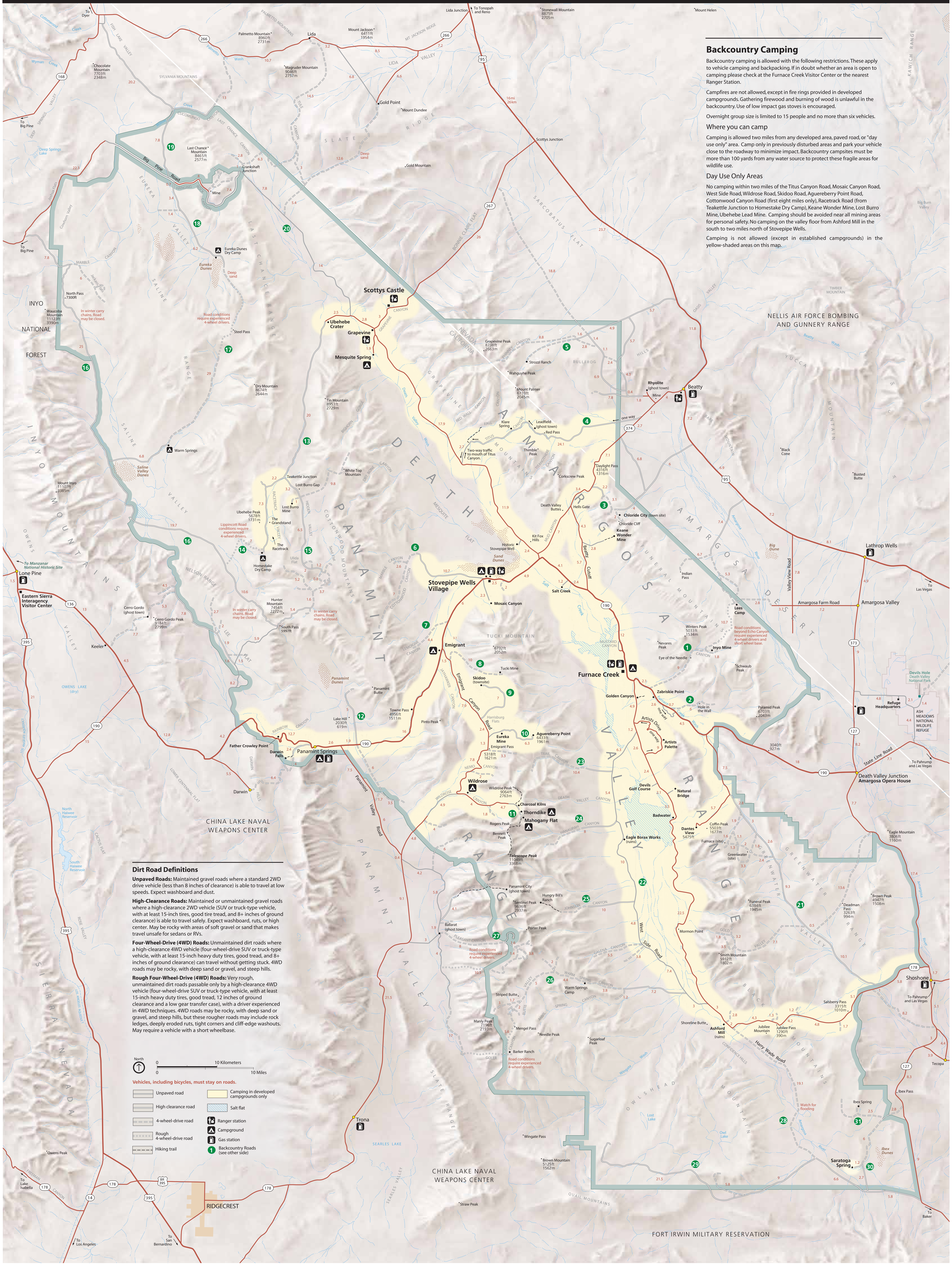
Death Valley Backcountry Roads



Backcountry Camping

Backcountry camping is allowed with the following restrictions. These apply to vehicle camping and backpacking. If in doubt whether an area is open to camping please check at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center or the nearest Ranger Station.

Campfires are not allowed, except in fire rings provided in developed campgrounds. Gathering firewood and burning of wood is unlawful in the backcountry. Use of low impact gas stoves is encouraged.

Overnight group size is limited to 15 people and no more than six vehicles.

Where you can camp

Camping is allowed two miles from any developed area, paved road, or "day use only" area. Camp only in previously disturbed areas and park your vehicle close to the roadway to minimize impact. Backcountry campsites must be more than 100 yards from any water source to protect these fragile areas for wildlife use.

Day Use Only Areas

No camping within two miles of the Titus Canyon Road, Mosaic Canyon Road, West Side Road, Wildrose Road, Skidoo Road, Aguereberry Point Road, Cottonwood Canyon Road (first eight miles only), Racetrack Road (from Teakettle Junction to Homestake Dry Camp), Keane Wonder Mine, Lost Burro Mine, Ubehebe Lead Mine. Camping should be avoided near all mining areas for personal safety. No camping on the valley floor from Ashford Mill in the south to two miles north of Stovepipe Wells.

Camping is not allowed (except in established campgrounds) in the yellow-shaded areas on this map.

Dirt Road Definitions

Unpaved Roads: Maintained gravel roads where a standard 2WD drive vehicle (less than 8 inches of clearance) is able to travel at low speeds. Expect washboard and dust.

High-Clearance Roads: Maintained or unmaintained gravel roads where a high-clearance 2WD vehicle (SUV or truck-type vehicle, with at least 15-inch tires, good tire tread, and 8+ inches of ground clearance) is able to travel safely. Expect washboard, ruts, or high center. May be rocky with areas of soft gravel or sand that makes travel unsafe for sedans or RVs.

Four-Wheel-Drive (4WD) Roads: Unmaintained dirt roads where a high-clearance 4WD vehicle (four-wheel-drive SUV or truck-type vehicle, with at least 15-inch heavy duty tires, good tread, and 8+ inches of ground clearance) can travel without getting stuck. 4WD roads may be rocky, with deep sand or gravel, and steep hills.

Rough Four-Wheel-Drive (4WD) Roads: Very rough, unmaintained dirt roads passable only by a high-clearance 4WD vehicle (four-wheel-drive SUV or truck-type vehicle, with at least 15-inch heavy duty tires, good tread, 12 inches of ground clearance and a low gear transfer case), with a driver experienced in 4WD techniques. 4WD roads may be rocky, with deep sand or gravel, and steep hills, but these rougher roads may include rock ledges, deeply eroded ruts, tight corners and cliff-edge washouts. May require a vehicle with a short wheelbase.