



Sunset from Dantes View

T. VANDERLAY

### Welcome to Your Death Valley Adventure

## Visiting the Park During COVID-19

Death Valley takes the health of its visitors, staff, and partners seriously. We encourage you to follow CDC guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### You Should:



Maintain a 6-foot distance from others who aren't in your group.



Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.



Wash your hands frequently. Soap may not always be available; bring your own.



Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.



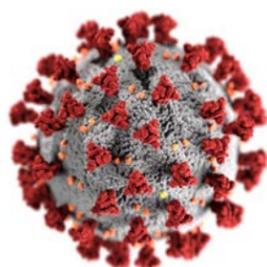
Wear a mask in all buildings (Inyo county requirement) or where a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained, such as on a busy trail.

### What to Expect

During this pandemic, park managers will be assessing local conditions & guidance from local, state, and national health officials, and will respond to changing conditions.

Facilities such as visitor centers, restaurants, campgrounds, and bathrooms will be open when possible, but may close due to health guidance or staffing.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to navigate this pandemic in a safe and responsible manner.



## Hottest, Driest, Lowest

Death Valley National Park is the hottest place on Earth, with a recorded temperature of 134 °F (57°C) on July 10, 1913. It is also the driest U.S. national park, and Badwater Basin (-282 feet) features the lowest elevation in North America!

These conditions come together to make Death Valley a land of extremes, where the powerful heat is a force of nature, and the air further dries everything it contacts.

This summer, Death Valley reached 128°F, which was the hottest recorded temperature anywhere on Earth since 2017—again making history with our heat!

In the cooler winter months, endless exploration and a diversity of experiences await you. Hiking, visiting historic sites, traveling backcountry roads, and seeing the night skies are only a few of the opportunities available!

With over 3 million acres of federally designated Wilderness, so many adventures await! Walk among majestic sand dunes, navigate twisted slot canyons, climb rocky peaks, or stroll along salt flats during your Death Valley adventure.

Inside this trip-planning guide learn how to safely explore and enjoy this amazing national park.

### More Inside...

Safety & Rules.....	2
Entrance Fees and Passes .....	2
Protect Yourself & Your Pets .....	3
Things to See .....	4
Hiking Trails .....	5
Park Map .....	6-7
For Kids! .....	8
Wilderness.....	8
Bicycles.....	8
Sunrise, Sunset & Night Skies .....	9
Nature & Culture.....	10
Wildlife.....	11
Visitor Services .....	12
Camping.....	12

### Junior Ranger Program



Free Junior Ranger books are available at the visitor center or can be downloaded from our website. Learn about the park and complete activities to earn a badge!

If you are unable to turn in your booklet in person, email pictures of your book to [DEVA\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:DEVA_information@nps.gov) and a ranger will check your work virtually!



Death Valley National Park  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

The National Park Service was established on August 25, 1916, " ... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife[...] and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Set aside as a National Monument in 1933, becoming a National Park in 1994, and expanded again in 2019, Death Valley National Park conserves remarkable biodiversity over incredible elevation changes all within the impressive vistas in this Wilderness setting.

**Park Mailing Address**

Death Valley National Park  
PO Box 579  
Death Valley, CA 92328

**Email**

DEVA\_information@nps.gov

**Phone**

760-786-3200

**Park Website**

www.nps.gov/deva

**Park Social Media**

Facebook.com/DeathValleyNPS  
Instagram.com/DeathValleyNPS

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**



E. HOERNER

# Important Protection Measures

Help protect yourself and the park by following these regulations:



Obey speed limits and do not stop in traffic lanes— park safely on the shoulder. Drive only on roads; tire tracks scar the desert for decades and destroy the pristine beauty of the park.



Please recycle. Propane cylinder recycle bins are located in most campgrounds where you can leave both empty and full canisters.



Feeding animals is illegal and dangerous. Once fed by people, animals tend to beg near roads, which endangers the animals and visitors.



Camp only in established campgrounds or in a permitted backcountry area. Check at a ranger station or visitor center for backcountry camping information.



Stay out of closed areas. Mines, service roads, and other areas are closed for your safety.



Rocks, plants, animals, and historic objects are protected just like in a museum. Picking flowers, stacking rocks, and poaching are not allowed.



Campfires are allowed in established metal fire pits only. Gathering firewood is prohibited. Check for fire restrictions before camping.



Pets are only allowed on roads and in developed areas. Pets are prohibited in Wilderness, on trails, and in buildings. Park dirt roads provide great places for exploring with pets. Keep pets on a leash no longer than 6 feet.



Despite being legalized by California and Nevada, possession or use of marijuana is illegal on federal lands like national parks.



Put garbage where it belongs. Litter spoils the experience for others. Even fruit peels can take years to decompose here.



It is illegal to discharge a firearm anywhere in Death Valley or to bring one into a federal building. Hunting and trapping are illegal in the park.



The use of drones/UAVs is prohibited in the park.

## Entrance Fee Required

Support your park by paying the required entrance fee at a visitor center or at one of the automated fee machines placed throughout the park. Already have one of the passes listed below? Enjoy the park!

**7-day Passes**

Vehicle and Passenger ..... **\$30**  
Motorcycle..... **\$25**  
Individual entering on bicycle or foot.. **\$15**

**Annual Passes**

Death Valley Annual Pass ..... **\$55**  
Interagency Annual Pass ..... **\$80**  
Interagency Annual Senior Pass..... **\$20**  
(for U.S. citizens aged 62+)  
Interagency Annual Military Pass ..... **Free**  
(for active duty military and dependents)

**Lifetime Passes**

Interagency Lifetime Senior Pass..... **\$80**  
(for U.S. citizens aged 62+)  
Interagency Access Pass ..... **Free**  
(for U.S. citizens with a perm. disability)

**Other passes honored**

Golden Age, Golden Access, Volunteer, and 4th Grade (Every Kid Outdoors).

**The fees you pay make a difference!**

Under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, the park uses these funds for critical projects that improve visitor services and protect natural and cultural resources such as:

- Maintaining and repairing campgrounds and park facilities.
- Providing education programs that reach thousands of students.
- Providing emergency medical service.
- Improving accessibility.

# Stop Damage in its Tracks!

Death Valley is seeing an increase in damage from illegal off-road driving; you can help solve this problem by staying on designated roads and reporting incidents to rangers.

## These Scars Can Last a Lifetime

Driving off roads scars the fragile desert landscape, leaving damage that can last for decades. These tracks don't just disappear with the next rainfall!

Visitors come from around the world to enjoy the vast landscapes and scenic beauty. This photographer's paradise is diminished by every track that cuts through the pristine and unblemished desert; don't let poor decisions ruin others' enjoyment.

## Wildflowers & Wildlife

Tires crush and destroy native plants. Ruts compact soils and break up important soil crusts, which prevents plants like wildflowers from growing in future years.

Tires also spread seeds from weeds which crowd out native wildflowers and cause health problems for wildlife.

Further, driving off roads threatens the endangered desert tortoise, and can crush them while they hibernate.

## It is Illegal

In addition to harming the park, driving off roads is also illegal. A person driving off-road can be fined at least \$750 and/or get 6 months of jail time (36 CFR § 4.10).

There are areas on nearby BLM and Forest Service land where "off roading" is permitted in accordance with these agencies' policies. National Parks are set aside for conservation as well as recreation that does not damage the resources they protect.



Extensive damage from illegal offroad driving on salt flats.

NPS PHOTO

# Safety and Travel Information



NPS PHOTO

## Protecting Yourself and Your Pets

Death Valley may be wild and unfamiliar country, but it need not be dangerous. Please review these safety considerations. Medical care can be hours away.

### Heat

Dehydration occurs quickly here! Carry and drink water—at least 1 gallon per person per day. As you exercise, you lose salt and water (over a quart and a half per hour while hiking). You need both to survive in this extreme environment. Reduce alcohol and caffeine intake as the diuretic effects can add to dehydration.

Protect your body—skin burns fast here. Find shade, wear sunscreen, sunglasses, and a brimmed hat. Wear long-sleeves, trousers, and good shoes.

### Plan Ahead

Know road and weather conditions. When traveling off paved roads or into the backcountry, call someone at home and tell them specifically where you are going. Free backcountry permits are available at visitor centers—we can find you faster if we know where to look.

### Technology and Phones

Devices are great but can be deadly to rely upon. Cellphone service is very limited in the park. GPS devices frequently recommend "shortcuts" onto unmaintained roads. Use a map, compass, and common sense.

### Flash Floods

During rain, avoid hiking in canyons. When driving, evaluate water on roads before crossing; floods can remove road sections and muddy water hides debris and large rocks.

### Prepare for Breakdowns

In case of vehicle trouble, stay with your car. You'll have shade and be easier to find. If you're on a dirt road, plan on changing a flat tire at least once. Be aware that most rental cars do not have spare tires and agreements do not cover unpaved roads, resulting in expensive towing fees.

### Mine Hazards

Do not enter mine shafts or tunnels; they might be unstable, have hidden pits, pockets of poisonous gases, or be home to wildlife. Stay Out—Stay Alive!

### Driving

Vehicle accidents are the single largest cause of serious injury or death in the park! Sharp turns lead to rollover accidents. Enjoy the scenery when parked and follow speed limits.



## Pets in the Park

Bringing a pet to Death Valley may limit some of your activities and explorations in the park. Follow these pet regulations to ensure a safer, more enjoyable visit for yourselves, other park visitors, your pet, and the park's wildlife.

- Pets are not allowed on trails, off roads, or in Wilderness areas. Your pet can only go where your car can go.
- Walk pets only on dirt or paved roads. Be sure to stop and feel the ground often in order to ensure paws won't be burned!
- Pets need to be on a leash no longer than six feet in length at all times.
- You may not leave your pet unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal, or if the animal becomes a nuisance. Minutes in a hot car can kill.
- If you plan to hike, someone must stay behind with the pet, or you will need to make arrangements with a kennel service. There is no kennel service in the park.
- Park regulations require that you clean up after your pet and dispose of waste in trash receptacles.

## Partnerships

Many programs across the National Park Service are built on partnerships and philanthropy, helping expand opportunities and outreach.

### Death Valley Natural History Association

This is the official non-profit partner of Death Valley National Park. They operate bookstores at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center and Stovepipe Wells Ranger Station. They also offer classes through the Death Valley Field Institute.

Since 1954, the association has donated over six and a half million dollars to the park, helping fund projects including wilderness

restoration, printing books, supporting the Dark Sky Festival, transportation grants to bring in school groups, funding interns, historic preservation work at Scotty's Castle, and much more.

Your support makes a difference. You can also shop online or learn about memberships at [www.dvnha.org](http://www.dvnha.org).

**Death Valley Conservancy**  
Incorporated in 2008, this non-profit group was founded by dedicated

Death Valley enthusiasts as a way to develop support and fund projects and programs that enhance research, education, and historic preservation.

Donations to this philanthropic group have helped support school group visits, restoration projects for Scotty's Castle, exact replicas of the Borax Wagons, Devils Hole pupfish research, and additional education and outreach programs to help share the wonders of Death Valley.

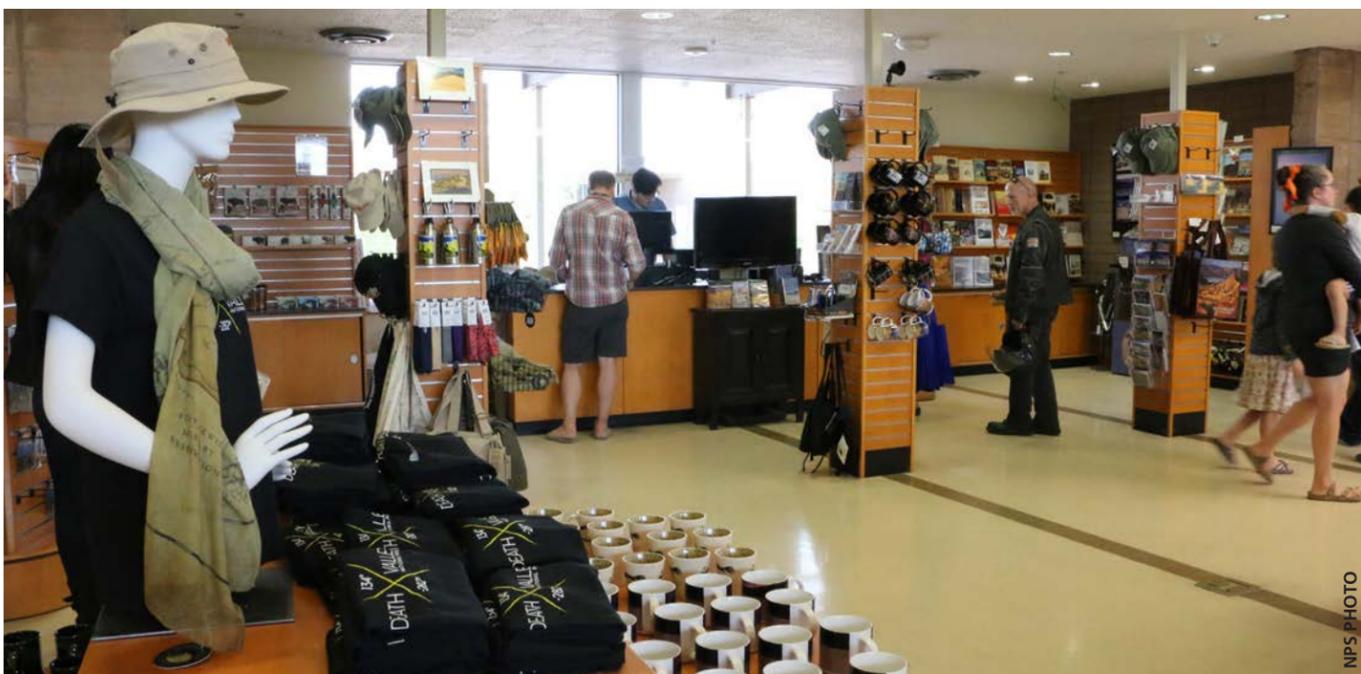
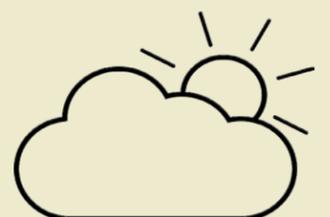
## Average Temperatures

Death Valley National Park is the hottest place on Earth, with the record setting temperature of 134 °F (57°C) measured on July 10, 1913!

Many of the past few years have continued to set daily or monthly heat records, with 7 heat records made in 2020 in May & June alone!

Average monthly temperatures for low elevations:

Month	Maximum	Minimum
January	67°F (19°C)	40°F (4°C)
February	73°F (23°C)	46°F (8°C)
March	82°F (27°C)	55°F (13°C)
April	90°F (32°C)	62°F (17°C)
May	100°F (38°C)	73°F (23°C)
June	110°F (43°C)	81°F (27°C)
July	116°F (47°C)	88°F (31°C)
August	115°F (46°C)	86°F (30°C)
September	106°F (41°C)	76°F (24°C)
October	93°F (34°C)	61°F (16°C)
November	77°F (25°C)	48°F (9°C)
December	65°F (18°C)	38°F (3°C)



NPS PHOTO

Death Valley Natural History Association's bookstore in the Furnace Creek Visitor Center.

# Must-See Locations

Check out the options below and the map on PAGE 6 for location information for these popular places.

Location	Description	Walking Required?	Travel from Furnace Creek	
<b>1</b> <b>Badwater Basin</b>	The lowest point in North America, at 282 ft (86 m) below sea level, a surreal landscape of vast salt flats.	You can see the salt flat from your vehicle. A short walk would take you onto the salt flats.	17 mi (27 km) south on Badwater Road <i>30 minute</i>	
<b>2</b> <b>Artists Drive</b>	A scenic loop drive through multi-hued hills. The 9 mile (14.5 km) drive is one-way; open to vehicles less than 25 ft (7.6 m) in total length.	Enjoy the views from your vehicle. A short stop at Artists Palette would require exiting your vehicle.	Entrance to the one way road is 8.5 mi (13.7 km) south on Badwater Road <i>15 minutes</i>	
<b>3</b> <b>Zabriskie Point</b>	Golden colored badlands and a spectacular spot for sunrise.	A 1/4 mi (400 m) distance, 60 ft (18 m) elevation gain walk up a paved path to the viewpoint from the parking area.	4.8 mi (7.7 km) east on Highway 190 <i>15 minutes</i>	
Location	Description	Walking Required?	Travel from Furnace Creek	
<b>4</b> <b>Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes</b>	Tawny dunes smoothly rise nearly 100 ft (30 m) from Mesquite Flat.	The dunes can be viewed from your vehicle.	22.4 mi (36 km) west on Highway 190 <i>30 minutes</i>	
<b>5</b> <b>Dantes View</b>	Breathtaking viewpoint over 5,000 ft (1,500 m) above Death Valley. It was updated in spring 2018 — check out the new exhibits!	No walking required. ADA accessible viewing platform.	12 mi (19 km) east on Highway 190; 13.2 mi (21 km) on Dantes View Road <i>1 hour</i>	
<b>6</b> <b>Keane Wonder Mine</b>	Best example of a historic gold mine in the park with an intact aerial tramway. <i>Please do not climb on structures or enter mines. Road can be very rough and may require 4x4.</i>	A 1/4 mi (400 m) distance, 85 ft (25 m) elevation gain walk from the parking area to the lowest tram terminal.	10.6 mi (17 km) west on Highway 190; 5.6 mi (9 km) on Beatty Cutoff Road to the unpaved, rough road <i>35 minutes</i>	
Location	Description	Walking Required?	Travel from Furnace Creek	
<b>7</b> <b>Ubehebe Crater</b>	Hundreds of years ago, a massive volcanic explosion caused by magma mixing with an underground spring left a 600 ft (183 m) deep crater.	The view is a short walk from your vehicle.	17.1 mi (27.5 km) west on Highway 190; 33.4 mi (53.8 km) on North Highway to Ubehebe Crater Road <i>1.5 hours</i>	
<b>8</b> <b>Charcoal Kilns</b>	These ten beehive-shaped structures are among the best preserved in the west. Built in 1876 to provide fuel to process silver/lead ore.	The kilns can be viewed from your vehicle.	33.6 mi (54 km) west on Highway 190; 28.2 mi (45.4 km) on Emigrant Canyon Road 2 mi (3 km) are gravel <i>1.5 hours</i>	
<b>9</b> <b>Father Crowley Vista Point</b>	A landscape of lava flows and volcanic cinders gives way to the colorful layers of Rainbow Canyon. Possible viewing of military training flights.	A view into Rainbow Canyon is a short walk from your vehicle.	62.8 mi (101 km) west on Highway 190 <i>1.5 hours</i>	

(Photos by Weston Kessler)

# Get Out and Hike!

Check out the options below and the map on page 6 for location information for these popular hikes

- Before starting a hike check weather conditions, and inquire about current road conditions. Avoid hiking in canyons when rain is possible; flash floods are possible with rain falling miles away.
- Always carry water. Two liters per person for a short winter day hike, and four liters or more in the summer and for longer hikes.
- Dogs and bicycles are not allowed on trails or off roads, but hundreds of miles of dirt roads offer unforgettable adventures.
- Constructed trails are rare in this park. Trails are provided in places that are heavily used and sensitive to damage. If a trail is there, please use it. Most hiking routes in the park are cross-country, up canyons, or along ridges. Footing can be rough and rocky.
- Hiking in low elevations can be dangerous when it is hot. The high peaks can be covered with snow in winter and spring.
- Pack out all trash, including toilet paper.

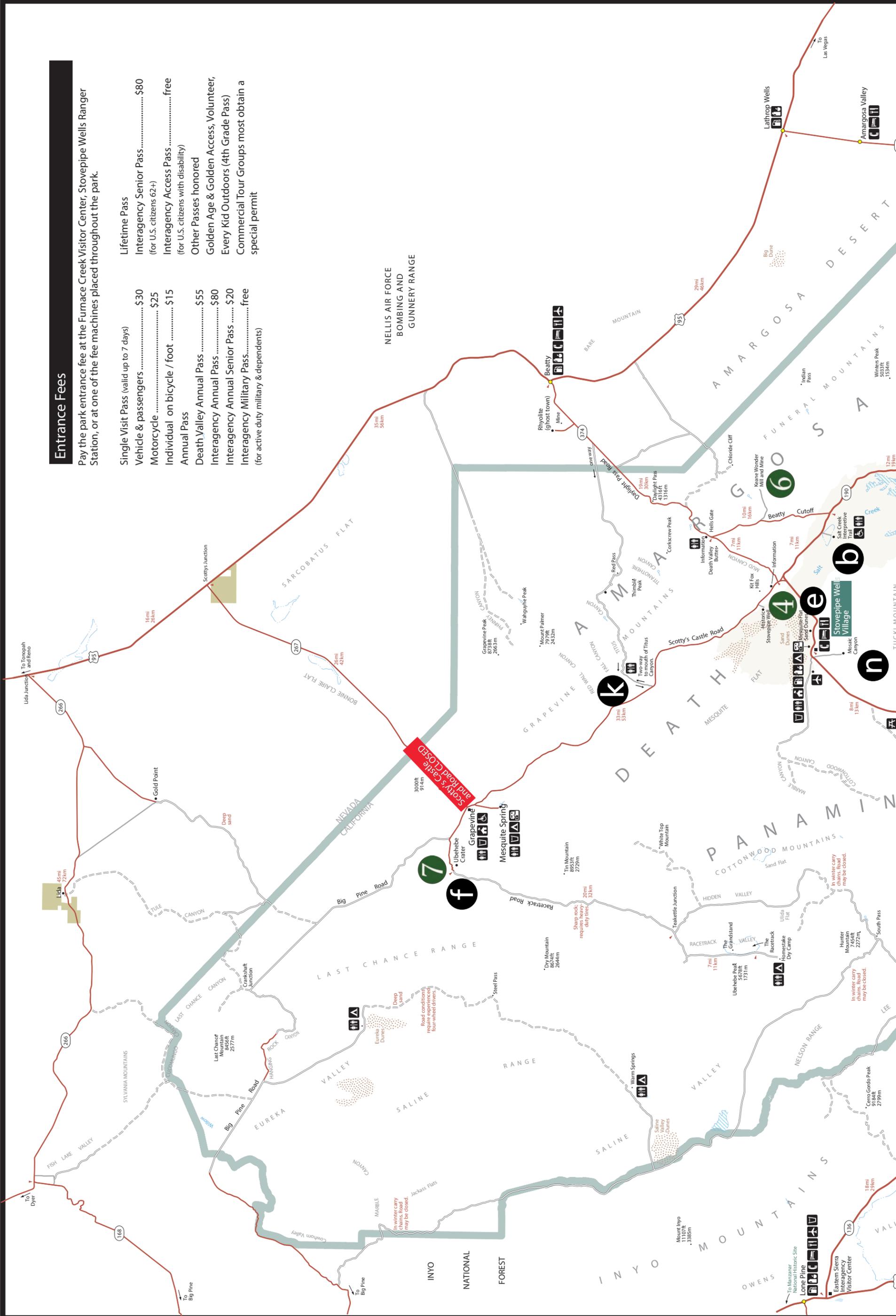
	Easy	Round Trip	Elevation Gain	Description
●	Harmony Borax Works	0.4 mi (0.6 km)	50 ft (15 m)	ADA accessible loop around a mining site where 20-Mule Team wagons began their grueling 165-mile journey south to the Mojave Railroad Depot.
●	Salt Creek Interpretive Trail	0.5 mi (0.8 km)	flat	ADA accessible loop. Wooden boardwalk through salt marsh and rare pupfish habitat. Pupfish can usually be seen in the spring. Great for birding. Unpaved road is typically passable in a sedan.
●	Badwater Salt Flat	1 mi (1.6 km)	flat	ADA accessible out and back. Scenic walk out to the classic geometric shapes in the salt flats and the lowest point in North America.
●	Natural Bridge	1 mi (1.6 km)	180 ft (26 m)	Out and back hike up a dramatic canyon to natural bridge formation. Unpaved access road is typically passable in a sedan, but subject to wash-outs.
●	Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes	2 mi (3.2 km)	185 ft (56 m)	Hike through the largest dune field in the park to the tallest summit. Go during sunrise, sunset, or full moon lighting for unforgettable experiences.
	Moderate	Round Trip	Elevation Gain	Description
●	Ubehebe Crater Rim	1.5 mi (2.4 km)	500 ft (152 m)	Loop hike around the rim of a 600 ft (183 m) deep maar volcano. Head around the loop counterclockwise to include Little Ubehebe Crater.
●	Darwin Falls*	2 mi (3.2 km)	450 ft (137 m)	Out and back hike to desert waterfall. Minor rock scrambling and stream crossing. This is a source of drinking water—no swimming. Unmarked gravel access road just west of Panamint Springs.
●	Badlands Loop/Golden Canyon/ Gower Gulch Loop	2.7 mi (4.3 km) to 4.3 mi (6.9 km)	535 ft (163 m) to 850 ft (259 m)	Trailheads at Golden Canyon and Zabriskie Point provide access to colorful canyons carved through golden badlands. Rangers recommend starting at Golden Canyon and walking the loop back through Gower Gulch.
●	Desolation Canyon	3.6 mi (5.8 km)	600 ft (183 m)	Out and back hike through canyons made of colorful badlands similar to Artists Palette. Some rock scrambling required. No signs, follow the canyon. The unsigned gravel access road is typically passable in a sedan.
●	Sidewinder Canyon	5 mi (8.4 km)	1,580 ft (482 m)	Out and back hike into slot canyons hidden within a labyrinth of drainages. Some scrambling required. No signs; navigation required. Free map available. Unpaved access road is typically passable in a sedan.
●	Fall Canyon	6 mi (9.6 km)	2,460 ft (752 m)	Out and back hike. This canyon with towering walls is a great place to look for bighorn sheep. From the exit of Titus Canyon, hike north on the route near restroom before dropping into the wash at the canyon mouth.
●	Dantes Ridge	8 mi (13 km)	1,200 ft (366 m)	This out and back informal path from Dantes View heads north along the ridge toward Mt. Perry. Unobstructed views begin immediately and only get better. No signs, route is unclear in a few places.
●	Panamint Dunes*	7 mi (11.3 km)	1,028 ft (313 m)	Out and back cross-country hike north up Panamint Valley from Lake Hill Road. The pristine dunes are visible in the distance from the bend in the road, but there is no signage. The unpaved road is not marked.
●	Mosaic Canyon	4 mi (6.4 km)	1,200 ft (366 m)	Out and back hike within polished marble narrows filled with unique color patterns. Use caution on the slick rock surfaces; some rock scrambling is required. Unpaved access road is typically passable in a sedan.
	Difficult	Round Trip	Elevation Gain	Description
●	Wildrose Peak	8.4 mi (13.5 km)	2,200 ft (671 m)	Out and back trail through pinyon-juniper woodlands to 9,064 ft (2,763 m) peak. The final two miles of the access road are gravel, but typically passable in a sedan. Snow and icy trail conditions possible in the winter.
●	Telescope Peak*	14 mi (22.5 km)	3,000 ft (914 m)	Out and back trail to the highest peak in Death Valley at 11,049 ft (3,368 m). The trail starts at Mahogany Flat. The final five miles (8 km) of the gravel access road require high clearance. Road closes due to icy winter conditions.

(\*) High clearance/4x4 vehicle recommended

## Entrance Fees

Pay the park entrance fee at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center, Stovepipe Wells Ranger Station, or at one of the fee machines placed throughout the park.

Single Visit Pass (valid up to 7 days)	Lifetime Pass
Vehicle & passengers ..... \$30	Interagency Senior Pass..... \$80 (for U.S. citizens 62+)
Motorcycle ..... \$25	Interagency Access Pass ..... free (for U.S. citizens with disability)
Individual on bicycle / foot ..... \$15	Other Passes honored
Annual Pass	Golden Age & Golden Access, Volunteer, Every Kid Outdoors (4th Grade Pass) Commercial Tour Groups most obtain a special permit
Death Valley Annual Pass ..... \$55	
Interagency Annual Pass ..... \$80	
Interagency Annual Senior Pass ..... \$20	
Interagency Military Pass..... free (for active duty military & dependents)	





# Learn and Explore!



## Hey Kids!

You can earn a Death Valley Junior Ranger badge! Anyone can become a Death Valley Junior Ranger—just pick up a booklet from the visitor center or download a copy from our website, explore the park and complete fun activities, show a ranger the work you've done, take a pledge, and earn your badge!



A special free pass is available for 4th Graders! Get your voucher at [everykidoutdoors.gov](http://everykidoutdoors.gov)!

## Hike with a Ranger

Ranger programs are often available mid-November through April. Schedules for these free educational programs can be found at the visitor center.

Programs tailored for school groups might also be available; email [DEVA\\_Information@nps.gov](mailto:DEVA_Information@nps.gov) for more information!



A guided walk at Salt Creek Interpretive Trail.

## See the Classic Sights!

Go to pages 4-7 for trip planning suggestions.

## Explore Wilderness

With over 3.1 million acres of designated Wilderness, 93% of this enormous park offers opportunities to visit lands with the highest levels of protection. Here you can see a pristine desert landscape and be inspired by nature in a profound way.



Death Valley National Park Wilderness map.

Wilderness begins 50 feet from most of Death Valley's roads, and by adhering to these guidelines and regulations, you can experience some of the most pristine land in the country in a responsible way:

- *Keep wildlife wild:* do not feed, approach, or follow animals.
- *Watch where you walk:* if hiking off trails, avoid wet or soft soils, as footprints may last for years!
- *Choose the right hiking partner:* unfortunately, this trip isn't the one for your dog; pets must stay on roadways or in campgrounds.
- *Trash your trash:* pack it in, pack it out! This includes toilet paper and "biodegradable" things like orange peels, which can take years to break down in the desert.
- *Never drive off roadways!*
- *Savor the wilderness.* Keep noise levels down, and respect other's need for space.

## Rules of the Road

### Biking do's:

- Bikes can be used on all park roads that are open to public vehicles.
- Bikes can be used on bike specific routes, such as the bike path between the Furnace Creek Visitor Center and Harmony Borax Works.
- Ride single file.
- Be courteous of other visitors.
- Bring tools and extra tubes for fixing flats.

### Biking don'ts:

- Bikes are not allowed on closed roads, service roads, off roadways, in the wilderness or on any trails.
- Reverse direction on one-way roads such as Titus Canyon, Twenty Mule Team Canyon, and Artists Drive.

# Cycling in the Park

## EASY ROADS

### Bicycle Path

Start: Furnace Creek Visitor Center  
Distance: 1 mile to Harmony Borax Works; 1 mile through Mustard Canyon  
Road type: paved and flat to Harmony Borax Works; gravel through Mustard Canyon  
Level of use: moderate

### Salt Creek Road

Start: 13.5 miles west of Furnace Creek on Hwy.190.  
Distance: 1.2 miles  
Road type: graded dirt road  
Level of use: moderate

## MODERATE ROADS

### Hole-in-the-Wall Road

Start: 6.5 mile east of Furnace Creek on Hwy 190  
Distance: 4 miles  
Road type: loose gravel  
Level of use: low

### Skidoo Road

Start: 9.5 miles south of Hwy 190 on Emigrant Canyon Road  
Distance: 7 miles  
Road type: wash-board gravel  
Level of use: low

### Aguereberry Point Road

Start: 12 miles south of Hwy 190 on Emigrant Canyon Road.  
Distance: 6 miles  
Road type: gravel with rocky areas  
Level of use: low

## DIFFICULT ROADS

### Artists Drive

Start: 9 miles south of Hwy 190 on Badwater Road  
Distance: 9 miles, one-way  
Road type: paved with hills  
Level of use: high

### West Side Road

Start: 6 miles south of Hwy 190 on Badwater Road  
Distance: 40 miles  
Road type: level but wash-board gravel road, sandy in places  
Level of use: medium

### Titus Canyon Road

Start: 2.7 miles east of park boundary on Nevada Hwy. 374  
Distance: 28 miles, one way  
Road type: steep grades, loose gravel  
Level of use: medium



# The Skies Above



M. HARDRIDGE

## Searching for the Perfect Sunset

Where is the best place to see the sunrise or sunset? Truly, the answer is anywhere in the park! With huge horizons and dramatic scenery, it is spectacular wherever you are.

Sunrise options include either looking for a good vista east to see the rising sun directly, or finding places where

you can look west to see the sunrise light up the highest peaks then move downward across the landscape as the sun continues to rise.

Ranger sunrise favorites include:

- Watching the sunrise from Dantes View or Zabriskie Point to see the light hit the top of the Panamint Mountains and work its way down to the valley floor below.
- Seeing sunrise at Mesquite Dunes, when shadows are deepest.

Sunset options are similar to the suggestions for sunrise, but in reverse: you can choose a dramatic scene looking west to watch the sun drop over distant hills, or choose to look east to watch shadows climb up the hillsides as the light slowly fades and the first stars begin to appear.

Ranger sunset favorites include:

- Watching the sunset from Father Crowley Vista Point, with the light fading across the Cottonwood

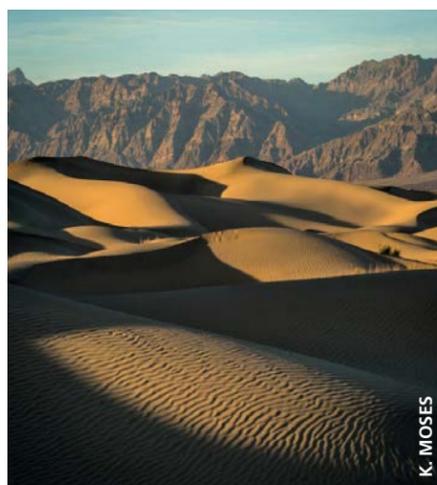
Mountains to the east.

- See the shadows grow longer at the Mesquite Sand Dunes, and the wind-blown ripples come into sharper focus.
- Overlooking the valley from Dantes View to see the sun set behind the Panamint Mountains.
- Watch shadows grow across the salt flats at Badwater Basin.



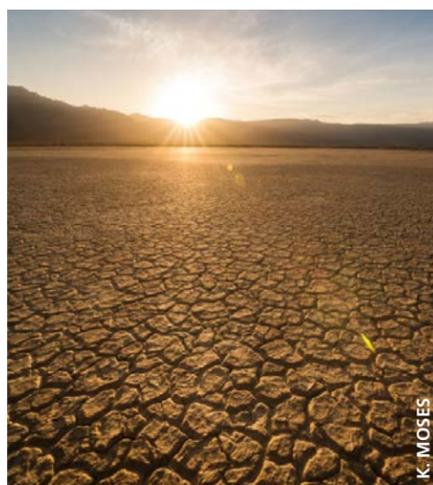
E. HOERNER

A sunrise ranger program at Zabriskie Point (check schedule at visitor center for availability).



K. MOSES

Both sunrise and sunset bring beautiful shadows across the Mesquite Dunes.



K. MOSES

The sun setting across Panamint Valley.



E. HOERNER

See the sunset over the salt flats at Badwater

## Night Skies

Death Valley is an International Dark Sky Park with a Gold Tier rating. The skies here are virtually free of light pollution, so stars can be seen by the thousands!

### Seeing Stars

Stargazing under some of the darkest night skies in the country can be an unforgettable experience!

Why can so many stars be seen here? The answer is simple: darkness. With so few lights "polluting" our night skies, stars are visible here by the thousands like they were to generations past.

Our dark night skies can be attributed not only to the remoteness of the park, but also to rethinking our lighting. Low energy, downward pointing lights at Furnace creek and Stovepipe Wells help protect the night sky.

Over your visit, we encourage you to take a moment to look up and experience the wonder of truly dark skies. Here, without need for a telescope, thousands of stars can be seen with just your bare eyes.

You can help bring stargazing opportunities like this closer to home. If you, your neighbors, and local businesses turn off outside lights when they're not needed, use shielded fixtures to help cover bulbs, and use energy saving features like timers or motion sensors so lights were only on when needed, the change could be significant! Consider being a dark sky ambassador for your neighborhood!

During your visit, we recommend checking out these dark night skies at:

- Harmony Borax Works
- Mesquite Sand Dunes
- Dantes View
- Father Crowley Vista Point
- Most roadside pull-outs



NPS PHOTO

Attend a Night Sky ranger program when available!



T. NORDGREN

Orion over the salt flats at Badwater.



W. KESSLER

The milky way stretching over Harmony Borax.

### Night Sky Viewing Tips

Seeing the stars at Death Valley can be an incredible part of your visit! Here are a few suggestions for the best possible experience:

- Visit during the new moon! This is when the moon isn't reflecting any light into the night sky and it is darkest.
- Stay out long enough! It takes about 30 minutes without looking at light for your eyes to adjust to the darkness.
- Use a red light. Cover flashlights with red cellophane if possible. Red light has the least impact on adjusting your eyes.
- Seek a large horizon. If you are too close to large hills or mountains, they may block large areas of stars from view.
- Bring binoculars! Although not a telescope, even these can help bring a greater number of stars into focus.
- Location! Most every area of the park can be good for viewing, as long as you get a short ways from areas with light. Even getting a mile away from buildings or campgrounds can be a big help!



# Nature and Culture



HISTORIC PHOTO

## Chapters in Time

This park conserves a rich and varied tapestry of human history, including Native Americans, miners, castle-builders, and so much more.

### Native Americans

This is the homeland of the Timbisha Shoshone who have lived here for centuries, hunting and moving seasonally in order to harvest pinyon pine nuts and mesquite beans. To

them, the land provides everything that is needed. Many areas here were and are considered to be sacred places.

Rock art, stone tools, and other evidence of their history can be found throughout the park. These, along with all historic sites, are protected against theft, vandalism, or disturbance. Please visit with respect.

### Mining

Between 1849 and 1915, the lure of wealth brought different prospectors,

mines and the associated kilns, mills, and boom towns which changed the landscape. Gold, silver, zinc, tungsten, antimony, talc, and most profitably, borax, were mined here.

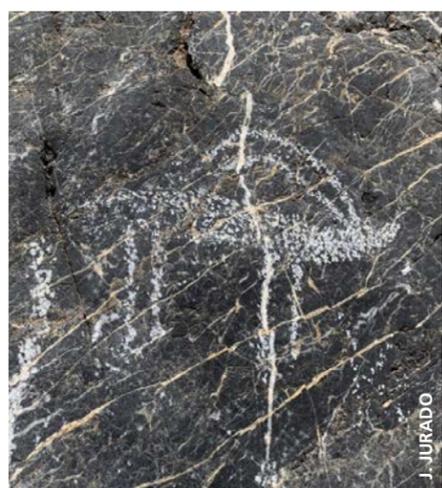
This history can be seen at Harmony Borax Works, Twenty Mule Team Canyon, and Keane Wonder Mine.

### Fortunes Spent

The draw of Death Valley continued into the roaring 1920s, when wealthy builders started making their mark.

Albert and Bessie Johnson built a vacation home now known as "Scotty's Castle," after their friend Walter Scott. This castle is currently closed due to severe flood damage.

The Inn at Death Valley was built in 1927 by the Pacific Coast Borax Company to entice visitors here and spread the idea that this place should become a national park. Nearly a century later, guests can still stay in this privately owned resort and experience the grandeur of Death Valley.



J. JURADO

Pictographs along Titus Canyon Road.



NPS PHOTO

Keane Wonder Mine's aerial tramway.



J. JURADO

Charcoal Kilns at Wildrose made fuel for smelters.



NPS PHOTO

Scotty's Castle, a vacation home for the Johnsons.

# A Valley of Life

Despite the name, Death Valley National Park is home to a surprising array of plants that make this park a rich and thriving ecosystem.

### Diversity

Death Valley has more than 1,000 described plant species, ranging from ancient bristlecone pines to ephemeral spring wildflowers.

Part of this diversity is due to the over 11,000 feet of elevation change found in the park. Low elevation vegetation zones host creosote bush, desert holly, and mesquite. Mid elevations include shadescale, blackbrush, and Joshua trees. At high elevations you can find sub-alpine limber pine and bristlecone pine woodlands.

### Seeking a Superbloom

Death Valley is famous for spring wildflower displays, but these rare events are the exception, not the rule! On average, superblooms only come around once in a decade, with the last ones in 2005 and 2016.

Only under perfect conditions does the desert fill with a sea of gold, pink, purple, or white flowers.

A good wildflower year depends on at least three things: well-spaced rainfall throughout the winter and spring, a mild winter, and no drying winds.

### When to Expect Blooms

Different species and different elevations result in a staggered bloom across the park, allowing for opportunities to see wildflowers over much of the spring and early summer.

The wildflower season at low elevations usually runs mid-February to mid-April, when desert gold, phacelias, primrose, gravel ghost, monkeyflower and desert five-spot can be found on alluvial fans and foothills.

Higher elevations usually bloom from May to mid-July and include desert

mariposa, purple sage, rose sage, lupine, paintbrush, and penstemon.

### Don't Pick, Protect!

Wildflowers are an important part of the ecosystem. They provide food, habitat, and are beautiful as well!

The best way to show your love for wildflowers is to let them keep growing!

Picking flowers steals enjoyment from other visitors, and prevents seeds from growing into next year's blooms.



J. JURADO

Desert chicory.



N. NURRI

Mojave Aster and bee-flies.



NPS PHOTO

Desert gold.



J. JURADO

Desert Five-spot.

# Keeping Wildlife Wild



NPS PHOTO

## Pupfish

Death Valley is home to five species of pupfish, each named after the single water source that they live in: Devils Hole, Salt Creek, Cottonball Marsh, Saratoga, and Amargosa.

10,000 years ago, Lake Manly covered what is now Death Valley, and as it slowly dried up, pockets of water around springs became the only available pupfish habitat.

Isolated in individual springs, these fish began adapting to the unique places they found to be home. Studying these fish teach scientists about adaptations for heat and low-oxygen environments.

If you are interested in seeing pupfish during your visit, they can be sighted from the boardwalks on the Salt Creek Interpretive Trail or Devils Hole. Please remember to stay on the boardwalk to protect their fragile habitat!



O. FEURERBACHER

## Desert Tortoise

Rarely seen, tortoises spend up to 95% of their lives underground, hibernating during dry times and coming out after rains to feed on fresh growth of wildflowers, grasses, and cacti.

Desert tortoise populations have decreased as much as 90% since the 1980s, due in part to habitat destruction, increase in fire ant populations, and illegal collection.

Desert Tortoise are a listed threatened species. It is unlawful to touch, harm, harass, or collect wild desert tortoises.

If disturbed, a tortoise may empty its bladder as a defense mechanism; this moisture would otherwise be conserved for dry times, and its loss could be deadly.

Only move a tortoise if it is in immediate danger, such as in a roadway, and move it in the direction it was originally traveling.



C. ROHE

## Bighorn Sheep

Desert bighorn range throughout the park, from salt flats to high mountain ridges, spending most of their time on steep slopes where they are safe from predators like mountain lions.

Adapted to a dry climate, bighorn are able to go without water for several days, and can lose up to a third of their body weight due to dehydration. When water becomes available again, the sheep can drink several gallons at a

time in order to fully recover. Bighorn sheep are social, forming herds of 8-10 individuals, but herds up to 100 have been observed in the wild!

Desert bighorn are listed as an endangered species, after populations crashed to an estimated 280 sheep in southern California in 1998. With protection measures in place, including large protected areas of habitat like Death Valley National Park, their numbers are slowly recovering.



NPS PHOTO

## Coyotes

Few things are as eerie and beautiful as the song of a coyote. Their yips and howls let you know you are in the presence of an iconic figure. Their narrow-set, yellow eyes and long snout may seem intimidating, but in general, coyotes do not bother people.

These highly adapted members of the canine family are omnivores, dining on small mammals, reptiles, and insects, but will also eat berries and other vegetation when meat is unavailable.

Coyotes are usually solitary but will hunt in small groups in areas where food is plentiful, working cooperatively to chase an animal in relays to tire it.

Coyotes are frequently seen around campgrounds where they have been habituated to human food.

Feeding coyotes can lead to their death; many are hit as they approach cars for food. Protect these animals by following the no-feeding rules, please!



K. MOSES

## Invasive Burros

Burros, also known as donkeys, are not native, but are remnant populations brought here by early prospectors.

Despite the sparse vegetation, burro populations have exploded here, especially around springs in Saline Valley, Butte Valley, and Wildrose.

Invasive burros have had a large impact on fragile desert springs and ecosystems. They aggressively defend their territory, and keep native species

like Desert Bighorn and other wildlife away from water sources.

Park management is working to control burro populations with a non-profit no-kill sanctuary where they receive medical care, training, and are adopted out.

Please do not feed burros or disturb trapping pens; drive slowly on the winding roads near Wildrose as they are frequently in the roadway. Stay in your car, as they can be aggressive.



## Wild Animal Encounters

For many people, the chance to see wildlife in their natural environment is an amazing opportunity.

However, one must always remember that we are entering their home, their territory. As such, we need to respect wildlife and know what to do if we encounter a wild predator, such as a mountain lion:

- Do not run, but back away to get out of range of the perceived threat.
- If you feel threatened, try to look large, wave your arms, throw rocks or sticks.
- If attacked, fight back.
- Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind.

## Please Help

To help preserve healthy environments for both visitors and wildlife, please remember:

- Never leave food or trash unattended, as ravens, coyotes, and other wildlife readily habituate to human foods.
- Never feed wildlife; no park animal is tame and feeding leads to aggressive future behavior.
- Never approach wildlife and always keep a safe distance.
- Keep dogs leashed and limit their walks to roadways and campgrounds; dogs can spread diseases to wildlife.

Have you seen interesting wildlife during your visit? Park biologists use information about wildlife sightings to learn more about animal populations in the park.

If you see rare animals (like bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, pronghorn) or animals behaving oddly (like approaching cars), please report these to a ranger at a visitor center or through the iNaturalist app or website.



# Local Information and Services

**Emergency Call 911**

**Death Valley National Park**

General Information:  
760-786-3200  
www.nps.gov/deva

**Furnace Creek Visitor Center**

Open Daily, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Obtain general information and maps, purchase entrance passes, explore exhibits, watch the park film, and speak with park rangers.

**Death Valley Natural History Assoc.**

Bookstore with souvenirs, packaged sandwiches, snacks and drinks.  
Operates within the Furnace Creek Visitor Center.

**Stovepipe Wells Ranger Station**

Hours determined by available staffing.  
Obtain general information and maps, purchase entrance passes, and speak with park rangers.

**Death Valley Ranch (Scotty's Castle)**

This historic building and the Bonnie Claire Road to NV-267 are closed due to flash flood damage.



Businesses listed here are not run by the National Park Service; information subject to change and is listed here as a convenience to our visitors.

**FURNACE CREEK AREA**

**Post Office**

Mail letters and postcards: lobby open 24 hours. Purchase postage Monday through Friday, 8am-4pm, closed for lunch 1-1:30pm  
800-275-8777

**Indian Tacos & Shaved Ice**

In Timbisha Shoshone Village  
Often open Tuesday—Saturday, 10am-6pm  
760-258-7858

**Farabees Jeep Rental & Tours**

4x4 Jeep rentals and tours.  
760-786-9872

**The Inn at Death Valley**

Hotel, restaurant, and pool.  
760-786-2345

**The Ranch at Death Valley**

Lodging, camping, restaurants, cafe, bar, general store, gift shop, golf course, pool, showers, laundry, gas, and WiFi.  
760-786-2345

**Borax Museum**

Located within The Ranch at Death Valley. Open dawn to dusk; free.

**STOVEPIPE WELLS AREA**

**Death Valley Lodging Company**

Lodging, camping, gas, general store, gift shop, shower & pool, restaurant, bar, and WiFi.  
760-786-7090

**PANAMINT SPRINGS AREA**

**Panamint Springs Resort**

Lodging, camping, gas, general store, showers, restaurant & bar, and WiFi.  
775-482-7680

**COMMUNITIES WEST OF THE PARK**

**Trona, CA**

1 hour 50 minutes from Furnace Creek  
Lodging, restaurants, camping, gas.

**Ridgecrest, CA**

2 hours 15 minutes from Furnace Creek  
Lodging, restaurants, grocery stores, hospital, auto service, gas, camping, vet.

**Lone Pine, CA**

2 hours from Furnace Creek  
Lodging, restaurants, camping, groceries, health clinic.

**COMMUNITIES EAST OF THE PARK**

**Death Valley Junction, CA**

30 minutes from Furnace Creek  
Lodging, restaurant, RV camping

**Beatty, NV**

45 minutes from Furnace Creek  
Lodging, restaurants, camping, gas, general stores.

**Amargosa Valley, NV**

1 hour from Furnace Creek  
Lodging, gas, restaurants.

**Pahrump, NV**

1 hour 15 minutes from Furnace Creek  
Lodging, restaurants, grocery stores, hospital, auto service, gas, camping, vet.

**Tecopa, CA**

1 hour 15 minutes from Furnace Creek  
Lodging, restaurants, camping.

**Las Vegas, NV**

2 hours 30 minutes from Furnace Creek  
Lodging, restaurants, grocery stores, auto service, gas, camping, vet, hospitals.

## Camping Information

NPS	Season & Reservations	Elevation	Fee	Sites	Water	Fire Pits	Tables	Toilets	Dump
Furnace Creek	No reservations: mid-Apr to mid-Oct Reservations recommended: mid-Oct to mid-April. <i>Must be made through Recreation.gov or 877-444-6777; at least 4 days &amp; up to 6 months in advance.</i>	-196 ft (-60 m)	\$22 standard (\$11 with senior/access pass) \$36 hookups (\$25 with senior/access pass)	136 18	yes	yes	yes	flush	yes
Sunset	Open mid-Oct to mid-April No reservations <i>Back-in sites only</i>	-196 ft (-60 m)	\$14 (\$7 with senior/access pass)	270	yes	group only	no	flush	yes
Texas Spring	Open mid-Oct to mid-April No reservations <i>No generator use</i>	sea level	\$16 (\$8 with senior/access pass)	115	yes	yes	yes	flush	yes
Stovepipe Wells	Open mid-Sept to mid-May No reservations	sea level	\$14 (\$7 with senior/access pass)	190	yes	some	some	flush	yes
Mesquite Spring	Open all year No reservations	1,800 ft (549 m)	\$14 (\$7 with senior/access pass)	40	yes	yes	no	flush	yes
Emigrant	Open all year No reservations <i>Tent only</i>	2,100 ft (640 m)	free	10	yes	no	no	flush	no
Wildrose	Open all year, weather permitting No reservations <i>25 ft length limit</i>	4,100 ft (1,250 m)	free	23	yes	yes	yes	vault	no
Thorndike (4x4 recommended)	Closed during winter No reservations <i>25 ft length limit</i>	7,400 ft (2,256 m)	free	6	no	yes	yes	vault	no
Mahogany Flat (4x4 recommended)	Closed during winter No reservations <i>25 ft length limit</i>	8,200 ft (2,499 m)	free	10	no	yes	yes	vault	no
Private	Season & Reservations	Elevation	Fee	Sites	Water	Fire Pits	Tables	Toilets	Dump
Fiddler's Camp	Open all year 760-786-2345, oasisatdeathvalley.com	-218 ft (-66m)	\$24	31	yes	group only	group only	flush	no
Stovepipe Wells RV Park	Open all year 760-786-7090, deathvalleyhotels.com	sea level	\$40 hookups (\$20 senior/access pass)	14	yes	no	no	flush	yes
Panamint Springs	Open all year 775-482-7680, panamintsprings.com	2,000 ft (610 m)	\$10 tent, \$50-65 cabin, \$35 hookups, \$20 non-hookups	76	yes	some	yes	flush	no