Death Valley is the largest national park outside of Alaska, with a great mix of both Wilderness recreation and backcountry driving opportunities. The park is over 93% federally protected Wilderness.

**Hiking and Backcountry Access**

- **Echo Canyon Road**
  - High-clearance due to deep snow at higher elevations. Subject to change. trailer. This road provides access to the narrow canyon walls of the Grapevine Mountains and historic mine ruins.

- **Cottonwood Canyon Road**
  - High-clearance to map and rough wash roads. Subject to flooding and washout risks. No sedans or low-clearance vehicles are necessary.

- **Lemahie Canyon Road**
  - High-clearance road to map and rough wash roads. Subject to flooding and washout risks. No sedans or low-clearance vehicles are necessary.

- **Tucki Mine Road**
  - Road due to deep snow and large, multishore water crossings. Subject to flooding and washout risks. No sedans or low-clearance vehicles are necessary.

**Backcountry Safety**

- **Heat and Very Low Humidity**
  - Extreme dehydration and heat stroke potential during summer. We do not suggest hiking or driving in low humidity.

- ** Illegal Marijuana**
  - Possession or use of marijuana is illegal.

- **Properly Dispose of Human Waste**
  - Disposal in campsites and vehicle cabs is prohibited.

- **Rules and Regulations**

  - Drive only on designated roads. Obey the speed limits and other rules of the road. Only street legal vehicles are permitted, no OHVs.

  - Pack animal use is allowed except in developed campgrounds, paved roads and interpreters. Bicycles, motorcycle are permitted.

  - Campfires are only allowed in NPS-provided firepits. Gathering firewood is prohibited. Check for fire restrictions before camping. Campers and gas burning backpacking stoves are allowed. Do not camp in washes or on fossil beds. Subject to flooding and washout risks. No sedans or low-clearance vehicles are necessary.

  - Feeding animals is illegal and dangerous. Animals will be encouraged to hang out near the road due to food availability. Feeding animals is illegal and dangerous. Animals will be encouraged to hang out near the road due to food availability. Feeding animals is illegal and dangerous. Animals will be encouraged to hang out near the road due to food availability. Feeding animals is illegal and dangerous. Animals will be encouraged to hang out near the road due to food availability.
Backcountry & Wilderness Access Map

Vehicle Definitions

Low Clearance Two-Wheel-Drive (2WD) Vehicles
A low clearance 2WD vehicle is defined as a passenger car, sedan, or recreational vehicle with less than 8 inches of clearance from the lowest point of the frame, body, suspension, or differential, to the ground. These vehicles are only suitable for paved and low clearance dirt roads.

High Clearance Two-Wheel-Drive (2WD) Vehicles (including All-Wheel-Drive (AWD) & Crosswheeler)
A high clearance 2WD, AWD, or crosswheeler vehicle is defined as a vehicle built on a passenger car, light pickup, or SUV frame and suspension platform, but is intended for light to medium off-road use. These vehicles have at least 15 inch tire size and 8 inches of clearance from the lowest point of the undercarriage to the ground, but do not have low-range 4 wheel drive.

High Clearance Four-Wheel-Drive (4WD) Vehicles
A high clearance 4WD vehicle is defined as a SUV or truck type vehicle that is designed for heavy duty use, including moderate to extreme off-road use. These vehicles have at least 15 inch tire size and 8 inches of clearance from the lowest point of the undercarriage to the ground, as well as the capability to power both front and rear axles at the same time, and a low-range transfer case.

Modified Four-Wheel-Drive (4WD) Vehicles
Vehicles in this category have been specially modified for navigating difficult and technical roads where stock vehicles risk significant damage or getting stuck. Modifications may include bigger tires and rims, lift kits, improved suspension, special skid plates, etc.

Rental Vehicles
Rental vehicles are discouraged from traveling on any backcountry dirt road. Rental agreements frequently prohibit driving off pavement, which may not cover towing, recovery, or other emergency services. Full size space-time and tools are often not included. Trucking expense from dirt roads often exceeds $2,000.

Dirt Road Definitions

Cautions: Tire damage and flats are common on all backcountry roads. All-season or studded tires may not be suitable, and drivers should know the limitations of their vehicle.

FRONTCOUNTRY

Low Clearance, Two-Wheel-Drive (2WD) Roads
These are maintained dirt roads where drivers can expect light to moderate washboard and packed gravel.

BACKCOUNTRY

High Clearance, Two-Wheel-Drive (2WD) & All-Wheel-Drive (AWD) Roads
These are maintained dirt roads where drivers can expect light to moderate washboard, soft gravel, and or soft sand, and some have route maps薩E FOR LOW CLEARANCE VEHICLES.

High Clearance Four-Wheel-Drive (4WD) Roads
These are unmaintained roads where drivers can expect technical rocky wash, deep soft sand, and or soft gravel. CAUTION: most overland and expedition vehicles are not equipped to handle these roads.

Rough Four-Wheel-Drive (4WD) Roads:
These are remote unmaintained roads where drivers should expect tall rock ledges, deeply eroded ruts, tight switchbacks, exposed slopes, off-camber washboard, dry washes, and/or other technical obstacles for experienced dirt drivers proceeding with caution.

Produced in partnership with the Death Valley Natural History Association
www.dynha.org