

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HAROLD L. ICKES, Secretary
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

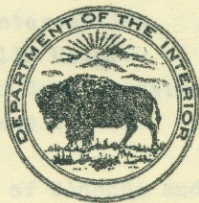
ARNO B. CAMMERER, Director

GUIDE FOR MOTORISTS

IN

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL MONUMENT

CALIFORNIA



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MOTORISTS IN DEATH VALLEY

Motorists entering Death Valley should note that the main route through the Valley is the State Highway from Lone Pine and Olancha on the west, via Darwin, Stovepipe Wells, Furnace Creek to Death Valley Junction, Shoshone and Baker. This route is maintained by the State Highway Commission and the National Park Service in first-class condition.

Other desert roads enter Death Valley from all sides, including a county road from Beatty, Nev., to junction with the State Highway in Death Valley, a few miles north of Furnace Creek. This county road is kept in fair condition. Many of the desert roads, such as that from the south via Saratoga Springs; from the northeast via "Scotty's Castle" and Mesquite Springs; from the southeast via Shoshone, Salsbury and Jubilee Passes; from the southwest via either Wingate Pass or Ballarat and Wild Rose; from the south via Granite Wells, are in excellent condition but should be traveled only by those experienced in desert travel, - that is, the automobiles should be in first rate mechanical condition, and there should be abundant supplies of gas, oil, and particularly water. These roads hold no terror for the experienced desert traveler who is well equipped, but should not be attempted by amateurs, as the distances between watering places and supplies of gas, oil, food, etc., are great.

The National Park Service representative in Death Valley, or the representatives of the Pacific Coast Borax Co., can always give the latest information about these desert roads to prospective travelers.

Tour No. 1 Furnace Creek Ranger Station - Olancha and Lone Pine. (via Towne's Pass)

LOG:

- 0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.
- 19.0 Sand Dunes Intersection.
- 24.6 Stovepipe Wells Hotel.
- 33.6 Emigrant Wash Road Junction.
- 40.6 Summit of Towne's Pass.
- 69.8 Darwin.
- 78.3 Intersection of Olancha and Lone Pine Roads.
- 100.0 Olancha, or
- 109.0 Lone Pine.

Emigrant Spring is passed at 38.4 miles, and farther up the canyon Middle Spring is to be found near the rock cave that has been walled up to provide a shelter. Burro Mine is passed shortly, and soon the road climbs on to the great Harrisburg Flats. Telescope Peak is visible dead ahead, and at 44.3 miles the road to Skidoo turns off to the left. Skidoo, 7 miles off the main route, is an abandoned mining town. Buildings remain standing, and the huge old stamp mill, operated by power generated by water that was piped for twenty miles, is to be found down the slope from the town.

Tour No. 22 At 45.3 miles the road to Aguerberry Point leaves to the left. An excellent view of Death Valley is to be had from this point that hangs high above the mighty sink. From the main highway it is 6 miles to the end of the road. A short hike from the parking space brings the visitor on a rocky peak, suspended over head of Blackwater Canyon. Breathtaking vistas of the Valley, the Funeral Mountains and the Charlestons, greet the eye.

At the south end of Harrisburg Flats, the road turns sharply to the right and tops the divide at Emigrant Pass. Descending a wide plain, past the entrance to Nemo Canyon, the road follows down a narrow water course and joins the Wildrose Canyon at 54.0. The road to the left at this junction, leads to the old charcoal kilns and Thorndikes via upper Wildrose Canyon. One mile down the canyon is Wildrose Station, consisting of several dwellings, a gasoline station and camp ground. Abundant water is available.

Continuing down the canyon past Tuber Canyon the road forks at 64.2 miles. Following right it forks again, and again the right hand branch is traveled. Across the flat the road goes along the west edge of the playa for several miles, thence into the foothills of the Slate Range where it is joined shortly by the main road from Ballarat to Trona. Climbing steeply to the pass it descends into the valley north of Searles Lake. At 94.0 the model desert city of Trona is reached. From this point a good oiled road leads to the main State Highway below Walker's Pass.

No. 4-B

(via Saratoga Springs and Confidence Mill.)

O. O. Baker.

30.0 Amargosa Junction.

33.0 Sheep Creek Springs, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (left).

37.0 Salt Basin, 3 miles (left).

38.0 Saratoga Springs, 2 miles (right).

48.0 Cave Springs Junction, (left).

58.0 Confidence Mill.

66.0 Ashford Mill Junction.

101.2 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.

This is the shortest route from Baker to the Furnace Creek Ranger Station. It crosses no mountains, and enters the extreme south end of Death Valley, traversing the Valley floor all the way to Furnace Creek by either the west or east roads.

Leaving the State Highway near the crossing of the Amargosa River the road follows, for the greater part, the south bank of the Amargosa, crossing the great fan that is spread down from the Avawatz Range. Eight miles after leaving the State Highway, a side road leads to Saratoga Springs, two miles distant. Here in the swampy marshes and pools are to be seen the Death Valley fish, *cyprinodon macularius*, called locally "desert sardine," and frequently visitors may see assorted waterfowl. Following the main road past the sink of the Amargosa River and across the great fan from Cave and Deming Springs, it swings north, skirting a dry lake bed to Confidence Mill. From here the new road follows over gently rounded mesas to the forks of the road at Ashford Mill from where the visitor may proceed by either the east or west roads to Furnace Creek.

Tour

No. 4-C

Shoshone to Furnace Creek Ranger Station

(via Salsbury Pass and Jubilee Pass.)

LOG:

0.0 Shoshone.

8.0 Greenwater Road Intersection.

13.5 Salisbury Pass.

19.2 Jubilee Pass.

25.2 Ashford Mill Junction.

70.4 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.

This entrance is one of the most scenic trips into the Valley. It is recommended as an entrance or exit, or both, as the trip can be taken by way of either the west or east roads along the Valley floor and affords an excellent view of the southern part of the Valley.

One mile north of Shoshone the road leaves the State Highway, and turns left up the wash through a low range of hills. Continuing straight ahead past the Greenwater road intersection, the route crosses the wide valley and climbs easily into the Black Mountains, reaching the summit at Salisbury Pass. Descending into a broad valley, the road passes close by Bradbury Well, and within a mile of Rhodes Well, a flowing spring of excellent water. Continuing down the valley, the road leads between colorful and grotesque mountain formations. Farther along the road forks, the left route leading down Rhodes Wash to Confidence Mill, the right climbing to Jubilee Pass and then dropping into Death Valley at Ashford Mill. All along this trip down from Salisbury Pass, magnificent views of the Panamints are before the visitor. Butte Valley, high in the range is across the Valley. It is all a picture of clear-cut outlines and blending colors. At Ashford Mill the road divides, offering the traveller a choice of the east or west routes up the floor of Death Valley. Each route has its fine points, and they join again at the Devil's Golf Course, seven miles below the Furnace Creek Ranger Station.

Tour

No. 8 Furnace Creek to Dante's View

LOG:

- 0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.
- 1.9 Echo Canyon (left).
- 3.2 Zabriskie Point and Gower Gulch (right).
- 4.5 20 Mule Team Canyon, EXIT, (right).
- 7.3 20 Mule Team Canyon, ENTRANCE, (right).
- 10.3 Junction of Greenwater and Death Valley Junction
 Roads.
- 12.3 Russell Camp, (right).
- 13.5 Ryan Road, (left).
- 18.3 Dante's View Road, (right).
- 24.4 Dante's View.

This short trip is one of the most popular tours in the monument. Visitors should arrange to take this trip in the early part of the day, for the rising sun greatly enhances

colored formations visible from this point. Several short side trips are an integral part of this tour, but should be taken on the return trip to Furnace Creek, due to road grades and light conditions.

Leaving the Furnace Creek Ranger Station via the Furnace Creek Wash Road a series of weirdly colored hills are encountered. One and three-tenths miles from the starting point, the lush green of mesquite and willows greets the eye of the visitor as he passes the spring and reservoir of the Pacific Coast Borax Company. Shortly beyond this is the junction of the Echo Canyon Road, and on either side of the road beyond this point there unfolds a fantastic vista as the visitor passes deeply scored clay hills.

The entrances to Zabriskie Point and Gower Gulch are passed and the panorama of mineralized hills and volcanic mud banks opens up to the right on the head of the Black Range.

Farther on, the entrance and exit of the 20 Mule Team Canyon are passed on the right, 2.8 miles apart, and the borax town of Ryan can be seen almost directly ahead, nestling under a high multicolored lava-capped hill.

Ten and eight-tenths miles from the starting point the road forks, the left road going to Death Valley Junction and Las Vegas, the right to Shoshone, via Dante's View and Greenwater. One and a half miles up the right-hand road a side road leads to the old Russell's Camp. At this point the mountain coloring is particularly brilliant, a riot of tan, brown, blue, green, orange and pink, with the black basaltic caps in sombre contrast.

The Ryan Road is passed and the hills gradually close in as the road continues up the wash bed. High up on the left, and bright against the black malpais hills, the yellow scar of the narrow gauge railroad and the mouths of borax mines are visible. There are more than eleven miles of railroad in this abandoned borax mine.

The road emerges from the wash into a wide mountain valley and at 18.3 miles reading, the Dante-Shoshone intersection is reached. Following the right-hand road, a steady climb is made up the Black Mountains from the back. After winding through a narrow canyon for two miles the road climbs over a low saddle and high to the right can be seen the kiosk

on Dante's View. A half mile of steep grade reaches the parking loop at the summit.

The view is breath-taking and spectacular in the extreme. Directly below, the expanse of Death Valley stretches almost endlessly north and south. The glistening white salt beds and the chocolate colored clay floor are weird in their contrast. Fingers of white salt -- drainage channels -- radiate in all directions from Bad Water, 5500 feet below the summit, and 280 feet below sea level, showing conclusively that all drainage converges on this lowest point on the American Continent. The great detrital fans spreading out below, by a curious illusion, appear to be sloping toward the mountains instead of sharply away, and resemble great craters, with the highway a finely traced line around their edges.

Faintly across the valley the mesquite oases of Eagle Borax and Bennett's Wells add a touch of green to the barren floor. To the north the green of the Furnace Creek Ranch is visible, and the view of the Valley floor extends to the gravel barrier that practically severs the Valley at Salt Creek. Still farther north the Grapevine Mountains thrust their folded masses into the skies. Westward, across the great sink, the Panamints rise abruptly. Telescope Peak, 11,045 feet above sea level, directly opposite the visitor, imposes its towering bulk. At its base, Hanapaugh Canyon spreads its fan gracefully on the Valley's edge. To the right of Telescope, a tiny finger of white against the skyline is Mount Whitney, 14,496 feet above sea level, the highest point in United States proper. There, in one great panorama, are the highest and the lowest points in our country.

From Tucki Mountain on the north, southward to the low blue gap that is Wingate Pass, the Panamint Mountains are seen at their full length by the visitor, - bulky, colorful, and forbidding, scored by terrific storms, their canyons deep and narrow, their fans sprawling lazily out into the salt beds.

Turning from the Death Valley panorama, to the east is the Charleston Range, 13,000 feet in height, - in the foreground, the contorted foothills of the Black Mountains; beyond, the Amargosa Desert. To the south, the blackened slopes of the Avawatz Range are clearly defined.

Returning to Furnace Creek, the following side trips are highly recommended.

Ryan.--Turning from the main road up the wash, the climb to the town of Ryan begins at once. The closely grouped buildings of the abandoned town nestle under a black, lava-capped peak with an exposed and brilliantly colored cliff providing a back-drop. The views down Furnace Creek Wash and out over the upper Death Valley are particularly fine.

20 Mule Team Canyon.---Four miles beyond the Death Valley Junction road intersection, the single track road that is the entrance to the 20 Mule Team Canyon, turns sharply to the left, crosses a wide wash and suddenly turns down the wash through a maze of borax and highly mineralized clay hills. Tunnels and shafts of early prospectors are seen on every side. Climbing over a saddle to the left, the road follows down a waterway so narrow that one can almost touch the hills on either side. Manly's Beacon thrusts itself sharply into the sky ahead. Following across a low divide and around an old borax camp, the road again comes out into the wash and joins the highway.

Zabriskie Point.--No visitor to Death Valley should miss this side trip. Only a quarter of a mile off the highway, the motorist can drive to the top of a cleverly terraced butte and from there witness a scene so fantastic that it beggars description. Folded and eroded hills stretch in a riot of colors. Directly behind, the Black Range rises in a jumble of contrasting colors. Through a gap in the hills Telescope Peak is framed with the Valley floor spread at its base.

Gower Gulch.--This tortuous canyon, resembling 20 Mule Team Canyon winds down to a blind end. It is a popular horseback trip, being approached from the Valley side through Golden Canyon, forming a scenic loop trip.

Echo Canyon.--This canyon trip is not recommended except for experienced desert drivers, as the grade and loose gravel make it extremely difficult to travel over. Leaving the highway, the road winds up the wide wash and enters the narrow limestone canyon. Rushing floods through countless ages have worn and polished the walls and carved intricate designs and pinnacles. Five miles from the highway the canyon twists sharply around a rampart of rock in which a

perfect window has been cut by erosion. Two and seven-hundredths miles beyond a branch road to the right leads to the old Inyo Mine and the abandoned settlement of Schwab. One and four-tenths miles beyond this intersection the Echo Canyon Road ends in a saddle above Cow Creek, from which point a wonderful view is to be had of the northern end of Death Valley, the Sand Dunes, and Hell's Gate exit of Boundary Canyon.

0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.
Tour No. 9 Furnace Creek Ranger Station to Shoshone (via Dante's View)

LOG: 0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.
18.4 Dante's View Junction.
26.9 Brown's, Hidden and Willow Spring (right).
32.1 Exit road from Willow Spring (right).
38.2 Dead Man's Pass Road (left).
48.4 Jubilee Pass Intersection.
56.4 Shoshone.

At the intersection of the Dante's View - Shoshone Roads, the left-hand road is followed southward. The road climbs easily over the high mountain plain. Turning from the main road to the right, abandoned roads lead to different sections of the old Greenwater mining settlement, the last one to Greenwater Spring. Eight and five-tenths miles along the main road from Dante's View intersection the Greenwater Canyon Road to Death Valley Junction leaves to the left. Four miles farther the scarcely noticeable divide is crossed, and the plain slopes gently toward the south end of Death Valley and Saratoga Springs. Two miles beyond the trails to Brown's, Hidden, and Willow Springs turn to the right, and four miles distant another intersection of these roads is passed. Volcanic hills now appear to the right, and ahead the high Avawatz Range and the southern Death Valley present a pleasing panorama. The Deadman's Pass Road to Death Valley Junction is passed on the left at 38.2 miles. The road then circles a spur of volcanic hills and arrives at the intersection of the Shoshone-Jubilee Pass Road at 48.5 miles. Turning left, the road descends to the State Highway, one mile north of Shoshone.

The above trip forms a part of a very interesting and scenic trip from Furnace Creek, via Dante's View and Jubilee Pass, into Death Valley and back to Furnace Creek by way of either the east or west roads up the floor of the Valley.

Recommended side trips:

Greenwater.--This abandoned mining settlement spreads along the crest of the Black Range for several miles south of Dante's View. It is reached by a network of old trails leading from the Shoshone Road. Greenwater Spring, in a tunnel, is at the southern end of the settlement. A road leads to the tunnel mouth.

Greenwater Canyon.--Turning left at the intersection, 26.9 miles from Furnace Creek Ranger Station, the road to Death Valley Junction leads through the scenic Greenwater Canyon. It is a typical desert road, a pair of wheel tracks following the canyon floor, but easily traversable. Three miles from the intersection Indian pictographs are to be found to the left of the road. Beyond this point the road enters a rugged gorge and then opens into a wide wash. Directly ahead spreads the Amargosa Desert. Crossing gravel spurs, the road passes the famous Lila C. Borax Mine and swings across the gentle slope toward Death Valley Junction, 50 miles from the starting point.

Brown and Hidden Springs.--Thirty-two and one-tenth miles from Furnace Creek, a desert trail turns to the right toward the foothills. Three and one-tenth miles from the intersection crossroads are encountered. To the right the trail leads to Brown and Hidden Springs. Straight ahead is Willow Spring and to the left the trail leads back to the main road. Three miles from this crossroads, following the right-hand road, the road ends abruptly against the foothills. No water was in evidence in 1934, but it is believed that a shallow hole in the wash-bed would contain water.

Gold Valley and Willow Spring.--From the above mentioned crossroads, the road climbs into the Black Mountains. Five miles of climbing brings the traveller to the divide. Through a great sloping valley where some mining activity has occurred, and which is called Gold Valley, the road passes into the head of Willow Creek Canyon and continues down the canyon. Looking down this precipitous water course whose walls seem to draw together, Telescope Peak and a section of Death Valley are visible. Eleven miles from the crossroads the canyon closes in and a giant willow tree and a thicket of heavy brush and tules conceal an excellent spring of good water.

On the return trip the road forks at the head of Willow Creek Canyon and the left fork returns by a different route to the main road, by-passing Gold Valley.

Tour

No. 10 Furnace Creek Ranger Station - Butte Valley Loop.

LOG:

0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.
35.3 Warm Springs road, (right).
45.3 Warm Springs.
50.6 Butte Valley.
54.0 The Butte.
57.0 Anvil Springs - Redland Canyon Road, (right).
57.8 Nellan's Springs, the head of Anvil Canyon.
67.8 Mesquite Spring (of Anvil Wash).
77.6 Wingate Pass Road.
78.3 Main Road.
116.4 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.

Following the main West Side Highway across the Devil's Golf Course and past Bennett's Well, a side road turns off at 35.3 miles below Furnace Creek Ranger Station and climbs a gravel fan to Warm Springs Canyon. The walls close in quickly and along their sides milk white strata of talc appear. Four miles up the canyon opens into a wide basin, and at the left comes the stream from Warm Springs, irrigating a grove of fine old fig trees and other greenery. The water is excellent and abundant. Proceeding up the canyon past Gold Hill, the road leads into a surprisingly large valley near the summit of the Panamint Range. Passing down the valley, Arrastre Spring is to be found high on the side of the barrier ridge almost directly across to the west. Three and five-tenths miles down the valley the pyramidal butte thrusts its striped bulk from the center of the floor. Keeping to the left at the intersection three miles farther along, the road drops into the head of Anvil Wash at Nellan's Spring. Ten miles down the wash a heavy grove of mesquite and arrowweed signals the presence of Mesquite Spring. Continuing down the wash and out of Anvil Canyon, the road joins the Wingate Pass Road and leads to the main road on the floor of the Valley.

Recommended side trips:

Golden Canyon, two miles below the Ranger Station, is but a short distance from the main highway. This trip is

recommended for the late afternoon at about sunset when lighting effects are ideal.

The road enters an extremely narrow gorge carved out of blood-red rock and twists up the canyon floor past fantastic and colorful walls. Occasional glimpses ahead reveal the red rampart of Cathedral Wall.

From the end of the road a foot trail leads to the amphitheater at the base of Cathedral Wall. There are several short trails for hikers or horseback parties within the canyon, and one trail leads across the divide into Gower Gulch, making possible a loop trip back to the Ranger Station.

Volcanic Canyon and Artist's Drive is one of the most beautiful drives in Death Valley and will be opened to travel during the 1934-35 season, having been discovered only recently. Leaving the main road just beyond Mushroom Rock, 4.6 miles below the Furnace Creek Ranger Station, the route turns into the basaltic lava-colored hills and emerges into a maze of colored clay mounds. Beyond this there spreads a panorama of brilliantly colored and weirdly eroded hills. Continuing up the water course, the road crosses a cinder covered plateau and drops down through a narrow wash, barely wide enough to drive through, and then out on to the widening fan to the main highway.

Hanapauagh Canyon, lying at the east base of Telescope Peak, is accessible, although the last 4 miles are steep and the road bed is of loose gravel.

Leaving the main highway, 15.9 miles below the Furnace Creek Ranger Station, at a point by Shorty's Well, the road climbs the fan almost to the canyon's mouth, where it drops sharply down the wash-cut bank to the floor of the wash. Shortly above this point the canyon divides, and the right fork, though not opened to automobile travel, has some excellent pictographs on the rocks. Water is also to be found in the right fork of the canyon. The road, following the left fork of the canyon, leads to a running stream, willow thickets, wild flowers and slopes covered with wild grape vines.

Anvil Spring, Crater View and Redlands Canyon are reached by way of the road leading to the right, 57.0 miles

ing the left-hand road 5.1 miles farther, the road to the Salt Pools is to be seen on the right. A mile and a half drive on this side trip brings one to the parking loop where a short hike is started to the pools. Here may be seen the curious phenomena of salt crystals forming in the clear brine of the open pools. Test wells, sunk at random points in this great salt bed, reveal alternate layers of briny water and rock-like salt for a depth of 1,000 feet at which point drilling was stopped.

On returning to the intersection and continuing south toward Bad Water, one finds somber browns and blacks predominating. A mile, almost straight above, can be seen the kiosk and fence on Dante's View. At Bad Water, the lowest point on the American Continent, 279.6 feet below sea level, there is a painted stripe high on the cliffs to the east showing the line of sea level. South from Bad Water, the road traces graceful arcs around the edges of the huge fans, and the mountains and cliffs resume their brighter colors. Twenty-one and seven tenths miles from the starting point is the Pastel Slide, multi-colored and fantastic in shape. A mile beyond is Painted Hill, brilliantly colored in reds and blues. Another mile and the visitor can see the sheer cliff north of the majestic red mound that guards the mouth of Copper Canyon. This bluff is so delicately colored as to deserve the name of Pastel Cliff. A short distance farther erosion has carved five purple toes of gigantic size, known as the Toes of Atlas.

The road now passes the mouths of Sheep and Willow Canyons and around Mormon Point. It is well here to look back at the mouth of Copper Canyon. The pale loveliness of the Great White Throne backed by the piled mass of red is reminiscent of Zion National Park in Utah. A mile beyond Mormon Point are the yellow stained hills of Sulphur Cliffs. Farther along is a mass of eroded conglomerate that is worn to the shapes of ruined pillars and facade of Egyptian architecture, known as the Temple of Luxor. Passing close to the volcanic hills with Death Valley rapidly narrowing, the road reaches Ashford Mill, with Sleepy Cat Canyon on the left which gets its name from the gigantic figure of rock that lies on the left, resembling a sleeping cat. At 45.0 miles, the intersection of the east and west roads is reached. Straight ahead is the route to Confidence Mill, and to the left, the road over Jubilee Pass to Shoshone.

Tour

No. 12. Furnace Creek Ranger Station - South

(via West Side Highway)

[illegible]

- 0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.
- 6.1 East-West Highway Intersection.
- 7.6 Devil's Golf Course.
- 9.4 Devil's Speedway.
- 11.2 Trail Canyon Road (very rough).
- 15.9 Tule Spring.
- 17.1 Hanapaugh Canyon and Shorty's Well Intersection.
- 19.0 Eagle Borax Works.
- 23.3 Bennett's Well.
- 28.0 Gravel Well.
- 29.6 Mesquite Well.
- 32.4 Talc Mine Road (very rough).
- 32.9 Carbonate Mine Road (very rough).
- 35.3 Warm Springs Road.
- 37.4 Wingate Pass Road - north fork.
- 38.7 Wingate Pass Road - middle fork.
- 39.4 Wingate Pass Road - south fork.
- 44.0 Ashford Mill.
- 45.0 Ashford Junction.

The west side highway is a marked contrast to the route down the east side of the Valley. It winds along at the foot of the fans on the Valley floor and is of unique interest because it follows the course of the emigrant train and passes their historical campsite.

From the Furnace Creek Ranger Station, the road follows south for 6.1 miles and turns right at the intersection, crossing the Devil's Golf Course on what was once known as the "World's Worst Road." It is now in good condition, having been literally chopped out of the flintlike rock salt of which it is composed. Near the center of this field of weird salt formations several flood channels are crossed. Across the smooth surface of the dry lake bed, known as the Devil's Speedway, the road reaches the edge of Trail Canyon fan, turns south and comes to Tule Spring, 15.9 miles from the starting point. The water hole is undeveloped but provides a small amount of fairly good water. It is generally believed that Bennett's Well was the camping place of the Bennett-Arcane emigrant party in 1849, but a close study of W.S. Manly's

"Death Valley in '49" would indicate that Tule Spring, or Eagle Borax Works, is a more likely location.

At 17.1 Shorty's Well is reached. It is to the left of the highway among the mesquite-covered sand dunes. To the right is the road that leads up Hanapaugh Canyon. Two miles farther is the oasis of Eagle Borax Works, an abandoned borax plant, that is a winter camp for Indians. At 23.3 miles is Bennett's Well, hidden away in a grove of Mesquite trees. Plenty of good water is available at this campsite. At 28.0 miles, a short distance off the highway to the right is Gravel Well, another source of good water.

Passing the roads that lead to the Talc and Carbonate Mines, Warm Springs Canyon and Wingate Pass, respectively, Ashford Mill is reached at 44.0 miles, and one mile farther on is the junction of the roads that fork to Confidence Mill, Jubilee Pass, and the route north up the Valley on the east side.

Tour

No. 13 Furnace Creek Ranger Station - Ubehebe Crater

LOG:

- 0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.
- 1.0 Furnace Creek Ranch.
- 1.1 Airport and Public Camp Road.
- 2.6 Harmony Borax Works Road.
- 3.0 Mustard Canyon Road.
- 3.4 Gnome's Workshop Road.
- 4.3 Camp and Park Village Road.
- 11.7 Boundary Canyon and Beatty Road.
- 19.0 Sand Dune Junction - Stovepipe Wells Hotel and
Beatty Roads.
- 21.8 Stovepipe Well.
- 26.8 Triangle Spring Junction.
- 28.2 Triangle Spring.
- 29.2 Midway and Surveyor's Wells Road.
- 34.4 Titus Canyon Exit Road.
- 40.4 Stovepipe Wells Road.
- 52.8 Mesquite Spring Junction.
- 58.0 Ubehebe Junction.

This route leads to all points north and follows up the floor of Death Valley as far as Ubehebe Crater. It is the only road north through the valley.

From the Ranger Station, one mile along the way is the Furnace Creek Ranch where a number of surprises await the visitor. An auto camp, store, restaurant, date grove, sheep, and an all-green nine-hole golf course, 178 feet below sea level. At 2.6 miles the intersection of the Harmony Borax Works road is passed. The abandoned adobe buildings, the boilers, and vats may be seen from the highway. The road continues past the Borax Works through Mustard Canyon and back to the main highway. At 3.4 miles a spur road leads to the Gnome's Workshop, through which a trail leads past miniature waterfalls and through acres of weird salt formations. At 4.3 miles a road turns right to the main camp and monument offices.

Continuing north, the Beatty Road turns off at 11.7 miles and follows diagonally across the wash through Hell's Gate and over Boundary Pass. Seven and three-tenths miles farther along the Sand Dune junction is encountered. Here the road forks left to Stovepipe Well Hotel and right to Beatty. Straight ahead the road follows along the edge of the Sand Dunes to Stovepipe Well where good water can be obtained. Here too is the remains of a half-dugout bottle house. The roads to the right lead eventually to Daylight Pass although neither is in very good condition. Continuing north, the main road turns right at the intersection at 27.0 miles. The road straight ahead leads to Triangle Spring, an excellent campsite with abundant water. Passing the road that leads to Midway and Surveyor's Well, the road swings around the edges of the fans and at 34.4 it crosses the exit road from Titus Canyon. So narrow is the canyon that travel is permitted to come down only. Entrance is made from the Amargosa Desert side. At 40.4 miles the road is joined from the west by the road leading from Stovepipe Wells Hotel. Beyond here the road drops into the main wash and follows up this water course, climbing out finally at Mesquite Spring. At this junction the roads fork, the left route bearing north past Ubehebe Junction to Ubehebe Crater in the black cinder hills on the west side of the valley. To the right from Mesquite Spring intersection, the road leads to the mouth of Grapevine Canyon where it again forks, the left branch bearing past Death Valley Scotty's lower ranch to the Ubehebe Crater and the right hand road following up Grapevine Canyon past Scotty's Castle to Bonnie Clair and the main Nevada Highway. It is possible to return via this route to Furnace Creek by way of Beatty and Daylight Pass.

Tour

No. 14 Furnace Creek Ranger Station - Beatty
(via Rhyolite)

LOG:

- 0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.
11.7 Beatty Road Intersection.
17.9 Keane Wonder Mine Road.
22.2 Hell's Gate.
23.5 Hole-in-the-Rock Spring Trail.
25.7 Keane Spring Road.
28.4 Daylight Pass -- Daylight Spring to the Left.
28.5 California - Nevada State Boundary Line.
34.7 Chloride Cliff Road, and Titus Canyon Road.
38.5 Rhyolite.
43.2 Beatty.

Driving north from the Ranger Station as in Tour No. 13, and leaving the Valley road at 11.7 miles, the route climbs the slope of the Boundary Canyon wash. At 17.9 miles an interesting side trip to Keane Wonder Mine may be taken. The road leads to the abandoned buildings and stamp mill that nestle under the towering bulk of Chloride and other peaks, 6.3 miles from the Beatty Road.

From the intersection at 17.9 miles the road continues up the fan to Hell's Gate from where a magnificent view of the Valley may be seen. Following up the canyon that divides the Grapevines and the Funeral Mountains the road passes the trail that leads to Hole-in-the-Rock Spring, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off the road. Further along the road to Keane Spring turns off to the right. Through the narrowing canyon, the road finally tops the divide at Daylight Pass. Daylight Spring can be seen one mile away to the left.

From here the road winds down across the State line into Nevada and out on to the broad surface of the Amargosa Desert. The road follows a straight line across the desert to the hills on the other side where nestle the old "ghost towns" of Bullfrog and Rhyolite. At 34.7 an intersection is passed, the right hand fork leading to Chloride Cliffs and the left road to Titus Canyon.

Bullfrog and Rhyolite are merged together, - mine dumps, scattered equipment, crumbling adobe ruins, and the stripped

remains of once fine concrete buildings. One building of interest has been restored and protected, the Bottle House. The railroad depot stands at the upper edge of town. The odd feature about it is that there is no railroad.

At 43.2 miles the town of Beatty is reached. Through this town passes the excellent Nevada Highway from Reno to Las Vegas.

Tour

No. 15 Furnace Creek Ranger Station - Chloride Cliffs

LOG:

- 0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.
- 11.7 Beatty Road.
- 34.7 Chloride Cliff and Beatty Road Intersection.
- 40.2 Intersection.
- 50.5 State Line.
- 55.0 Chloride City.
- 56.4 Summit of Chloride Cliffs.

The view from Chloride Cliffs is probably the best of the Death Valley region. Though lower in elevation than Dante's View, it is so located that the seeping view is more extensive. The mountains across the valley are lower, affording a far better view of the Sierra Nevada Range. Like the Dante View trip, it is best in the mornings when the sun is in the east.

From the Ranger Station, following the route to Beatty for 34.7 miles, a turn to the right at this point takes the visitor down across the broad expanse that is the upper Amargosa Desert. Another right hand turn at 40.2 miles and the road heads directly into the Funeral Mountains. As the road approaches the top, the grade becomes steeper and the road narrows. At 55.0 miles the site of the old assay office is passed and Chloride City is seen cupped in the basin below. Continuing through the "City," the road leads to a narrow saddle just below the peak. A short hike to the summit and it seems that the world is unfolded below. Death Valley stretches its tawny length north and south, the peaks of the Panamint Range crowd into the sky to the southwest, and behind them the pale bulk of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range forms the horizon for a hundred miles, from Mt. Whitney to the Minarets.

To the east, range after range of Nevada mountains are visible. It is a never-to-be-forgotten scene, and well worth the somewhat difficult drive.

Tour

No. 16 Furnace Creek Ranger Station - Titus Canyon.

LOG:

0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station

11.7 Beatty Road Intersection.

34.7 Titus Canyon and Beatty Road Intersection.

46.5 Red Pass and Rainbow View.

49.7 Leadfield.

52.2 Klare Spring.

58.2 Canyon's Mouth.

60.8 Main Death Valley Highway.

No more scenic trip exists than the Titus Canyon loop. The road is steep and narrow in places, and the gravel bed of Titus Canyon can hardly be classed as a road, yet with reasonable care the trip can be easily made. A fine all-day trip including this loop is made by combining several of the listed tours: from Furnace Creek to the "ghost town" of Rhyolite, back to the Valley through Titus Canyon, north to Scotty's Castle and Ubehebe Crater, and back down the Valley to the starting point.

Leaving Furnace Creek and following the route to Beatty for 34.7 miles, a turn to the left at this intersection leads up the Amargosa Desert and into the hills of the Grapevine Mountains. Crossing a subdivide, the road winds down into a deep bowl and climbs again to reach the main divide at Red Pass. From this point, known also as Rainbow View, the visitor can readily see why it is so named. In the late evening at about sunset, the scene beggars description. Winding down into the head of Titus Canyon past the boom town of Leadfield, drift mouths are visible all along the slope opposite. Below this point, the road enters the yawning cleft of limestone that is Titus Canyon. At 52.2 a patch of tules signals the presence of water, developed by a tunnel driven into the base of the cliff.

Below the spring the canyon narrows and deepens. Water-polished walls close in and seem to arch across the tortuously

twisting road. At 56.7 miles mosaic walls appear. Lines of marble in the black walls are polished by years of flowing water and thus is created the natural mosaic wall.

Continuing down the canyon the road suddenly rounds a sharp bend and the vista of Death Valley and Tin Mountain is framed in the narrow slot that is the mouth of Titus Canyon. Two and six-tenths miles down the fan, the main Death Valley Highway is encountered, 34.4 miles north of the starting point.

Tour

No. 17 Furnace Creek Ranger Station - Scotty's Castle

LOG:

0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.

52.8 Mesquite Spring.

54.5 Grapevine Canyon Junction.

57.3 Scotty's Castle.

Although man-made, the famous castle belonging to "Death Valley Scotty" and A. M. Johnson presents one of the outstanding features of the country. No visitor should miss this modern version of the Aladdin's Lamp. At present an entrance and guide fee of \$1.00 is charged for those desiring to view the wonders of the interior.

On the main highway north a right turn at Mesquite Spring Junction (52.8 miles), leads to the mouth of Grapevine Canyon where another right-hand turn is made into the canyon. About a mile and a half up the canyon the visitor is startled to see the fence line of the Castle properties. Hung on eight-foot concrete posts, the fence encloses acres of boulder-strewn sagebrush country. A short distance farther the tiled roof of the clock tower and other buildings are visible. Reaching the iron-studded gates that guard the bridge across the moat-like stream, the Castle and its many outbuildings are imposed against the barren hillside.

From the Castle the return trip may be made by retracing the route, or by continuing up the canyon Bonnie Claire to the Nevada Highway, thence south through Beatty and into the valley over Daylight Pass.

Tour No. 18 Furnace Creek Ranger Station - Ubehebe Crater.

LOG:

0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.

54.5 Grapevine Junction.

58.5 Ubehebe Junction.

60.8 Ubehebe Crater.

North from the Ranger Station on the main Valley highway, past Mesquite Spring, a right turn is made at 54.5. The road angles down the fan past Scotty's lower ranch, across the floor of the Valley, and into the black cinder hills that surround the Ubehebe Crater. At 60.8 a short climb reaches the rim of the crater, a perfect inverted cone, 800 feet deep and a half mile across the yawning mouth.

The return to Furnace Creek may be made by following down the wash from the Ubehebe Junction, 2.3 miles from the crater.

Tour
No. 20 Furnace Creek Ranger Station - Mesquite Springs
 (via Stovenpipe Wells Hotel)

LOG:

0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.

19.0 Sand Dune Junction.

22.6 Grotto Canyon Road.

24.6 Stovepipe Wells Hotel.

27.0 Cottonwood Canyon Road.

32.9 Sand Dunes and Indian Map.

34.4 Nitre Beds.

45.6 Main Valley Road Intersection.

54.0 Mesquite Spring.

North from the Ranger Station 19 miles, a left turn at the intersection leads through the Devil's Cornfield, an illusion created by arrow weed clumps from which the soil has eroded, giving the appearance of shocked corn. Across the valley floor the road swings up the west side and at 22.6 miles the Grotto Canyon Road is passed. Grotto Canyon, so called because of the grotesque form of the water-eroded rocks. A trail leads up the canyon from the parking space.

At 24.6 miles from the starting point, the Stovepipe Wells Hotel is reached, where hotel and cabin accommodations and restaurant service are available. At the filling station

of this establishment a road climbs diagonally across the fan to the mouth of Mosaic Canyon. Here may be seen one of the finest examples of water-polished conglomerate. The varicolored rock, polished by water for countless ages, gives the appearance of inlaid rock work.

A right turn at the hotel takes the road north and for four miles the way is over soft, shifting sands, difficult to travel. Two and five-tenths miles from the hotel a sandy and little travelled road enters the mouth of Cottonwood Canyon. Beyond, along the main road, a massive map of Death Valley and surrounding region is outlined on the ground; valleys, mountains and water holes are marked. It is believed to be the work of early Indians.

Beyond are the dazzling white clay beds, piled in successive waves, and known as the Nitre Beds. From here the road swings across the floor of the Valley to meet the main Valley road. From this intersection it is 8.4 miles north to Mesquite Spring and 40.4 miles south to Furnace Creek.

Tour

No. 23 Furnace Creek Ranger Station-Upper Wildrose Canyon

LOG:

- 0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.
- 19.0 Sand Dune Junction.
- 24.6 Stovepipe Wells Hotel.
- 33.6 Emigrant Pass Road.
- 54.0 Wildrose Junction.
- 61.2 Charcoal Kilns.
- 62.0 Thorndikes.

Death Valley, the land of contrasts, shows no greater contrast than the short drive from the heat and barrenness of the Valley floor to the cool breezes and massed green of pines at Thorndikes Camp. During the winter this area is often blanketed by several feet of snow, but in the warmer seasons the road is open to the very doors of the buildings.

From Furnace Creek, via Stovepipe Wells Hotel and Emigrant Pass, the junction of the roads is reached at 54.0 miles. Turning left at this intersection, the road climbs steeply toward Telescope Peak. Although rough and rocky, the road is easily traversed. After a few miles climb the first scattered pinons and junipers appear, gradually becoming

thicker. At 61.2 miles the charcoal kilns are reached, their white conical shapes resembling a stand of beehives. The charcoal, made from the nearby pines, was hauled across the Panamint Valley to the Modoc Mine, seven miles south of Darwin.

Following up the wooded slope, the road ends in the clearing that is Thorndikes. Although the camp is not maintained as a public resort, the owner always welcomes guests. A quarter of a mile beyond the road terminates at a saddle from where an excellent vista to the south and east is to be had.

Tour

No. 24 The Panamint Loop
(via Wildrose, Ballarat and Wingate Pass.)

LOG:

0.0 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.

24.6 Stovepipe Wells Hotel.

55.0 Wildrose Station.

64.2 Ballarat - Trona Junction.

65.6 Indian Ranch.

67.7 Warm Sulphur Spring.

72.3 Panamint City Road.

73.3 Ballarat.

98.2 Wingate Pass Road.

117.6 Anvil Canyon Road.

119.4 Death Valley West Side Highway.

156.8 Furnace Creek Ranger Station.

One of the most interesting trips in the Death Valley region is this tour that circles the Panamint Range, leaving the Valley over Emigrant Pass and reentering through Wingate Pass. It should not be attempted except by experienced desert travellers, and caravans of two or more cars, equipped with oil, gas, and water.

Leaving the Valley, via Stovepipe Wells Hotel and Emigrant Pass, down Wildrose canyon to the Panamint Valley. Following the east side of the valley past the Indian ranch, a spot that has long been inhabited by local Indians, the road reaches the sluggish spring of black sulphur water at 67.7 miles. At 72.3 a road turns left from the main route and climbs up Surprise Canyon to Panamint City at an elevation of 7,000 feet. The road is steep and rough and at times the rushing stream tumbles down the roadway. The ruins of Panamint City are comparatively well preserved, many buildings

still standing, and at the lower end of the settlement the brick stack of the smelter rises incongruously in this high mountain setting.

From the intersection at 72.3, Ballarat is passed one mile farther along the route. Here is another "ghost town." Many buildings still stand, and a few are occasionally occupied. Good water is available here. The road to Trona and Randsburg forks here and trails off across the Valley. The route to Wingate Pass follows along the east side of the Valley passing Redlands and Coyote canyons. At 98.2 miles the intersection of the Wingate Pass Road is reached. Climbing a steep rocky slope, the road reaches the old monorail and follows it for miles across the wide plateau, where it drops down the great Wingate Wash to the Valley floor. At 117.6 the Anvil Canyon Road is passed and at 119.4 the west side highway is reached. From here it is 37.4 miles to the starting point.

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