

Great Outdoors Palm Springs Chapter
DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
Camping & 4 x 4 Adventures
March 14-20, 2012



**Contacts: Cliff Clue cliffiboy@aol.com (951) 347-2691 or
Scott C. scottdesert@gmail.com (760) 324-5001**

Death Valley was established as a national monument by President Herbert Hoover in 1933. The Desert Protection Act, under the Clinton Administration in 1994, not only increased its acreage from 2,036,000 acres to 3,396,000 acres, but also changed the Monument to the status of a National Park. [Death Valley National Park](#) is the largest national park in the contiguous U.S. It is North America's driest and hottest spot. The park has the lowest elevation on the continent, Badwater, at -282 feet below sea level.



Although The Desert Protection Act protects nearly 95% of the parks lands as wilderness, there are over 1,000 miles of paved and dirt roads. These unpaved roads include some of the loneliest and most spectacular desert scenes. Generally, the wilderness boundary is 50 feet from the centerline of most backcountry dirt roads.

Climate:

Since this is a desert, the temperature can vary widely between the daylight and night hours. During the Month of March, the temperature can range from 80° F to 53°F. It's advisable to check the weather prior to your departure by logging onto the park's web site and searching for the Morning Report at this link: www.nps.gov/deva/upload/Morning-Report.pdf

Camping Information: ** IMPORTANT UPDATE ******

We received word in December 2012 that our designated campground – Furnace Creek – will be closed for renovations during our stay. Any existing reservation will be honored, but placed in different campgrounds – Sunset Campground (for RVs) and Texas Springs Campground (for tents). No other National Park Service campground in Death Valley is currently available for advance reservations – all will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are usually plenty of sites available during our planned dates in Death Valley, but we can't guarantee you'll get a space.

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Other alternatives are making hotel reservations at the these commercial facilities:

- The Inn At Furnace Creek <http://www.furnacecreekresort.com> (\$340 on up)
The Ranch At Furnace Creek <http://www.furnacecreekresort.com> (\$135 on up)
Stovepipe Wells <http://www.escapetodeathvalley.com> (\$80 on up)

RVs can make reservations at these commercial facilities within Death Valley National Park:

- The Ranch At Furnace Creek <http://www.furnacecreekresort.com> (\$32 per night)
Stovepipe Wells* (14 sites) <http://www.escapetodeathvalley.com> (\$31 per night)

Tenters can make reservations at this commercial facility within Death Valley National Park:

- Stovepipe Wells* (14 sites) <http://www.escapetodeathvalley.com> (\$12 per night)

*Stovepipe Wells is approximately 24 miles away from the Texas Springs and Sunset campgrounds.

There is a separate National Park Entrance [fee](#) of \$20 per vehicle for 7 days unless you have a [DVNP or National Park pass](#). As soon as you decide to go, please email Scott or Cliff, so that we can update our campsite locations. Prior to the departure date, we'll email an updated campsite list to all attendees.

Things to Bring:

- [Twelve essentials](#)
- Clothing appropriate for winter desert conditions

4x4 Gear:

- Reliable 4 WD Vehicle with 2 Speed Transfer Case
- Working CB Radio (No other Radio Types meet this Requirement)
- Tow Attachment Points - Front and Rear
 - Every vehicle must have Front and Rear Tow Points securely attached to either the Frame or the Uni-Body of the vehicle. Tow points may consist of hooks, shackles or other devices strong enough to be used for towing or winching the vehicle.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Tow Strap or Rope (No Metal Hooks)
- [Spare Tire, Jack, Tire Changing Tools](#)
- First Aid Kit
- Seat Belts for all Passengers

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Note: You do not have to have a 4x4 vehicle to go on this trip. Passengers are often welcome to go along with 4x4 owners based upon space being available in their vehicle.

We do ask that you consider the high cost of maintaining 4x4 vehicles and that you chip in for gas to your driver(s) on a daily basis.

Tentative Itinerary:

- Wednesday, March 14th - Arrival day
- Thursday, March 15th - Short 4x4 Outing
- Friday, March 16th - Four Camp Tour, Gold Mountain, Oriental, Tokop & Gold Point Mining Camps - (Death Valley SUV Trails, Roger Mitchell, Excursion 14; pages 93-99)
- Saturday, March 17th - Northern Boundary of the Park - Cucamongo Canyon Road to Nevada or Barker Ranch, or Mengel Pass, Barker Ranch (Manson hideout), Butte Valley
- Sunday, March 18th - Roger Pass via South Park Canyon (Death Valley SUV Trails, Roger Mitchell, Excursions 33 & 34; pages 226-239)
- Monday, March 19th - Short 4x4 Outings
- Tuesday, March 20th - Departure Day

Things to Do:

- Daily 4x4 excursion on established backcountry roads
- Tour Scotty's Castle. See visitor's center for reservations and [tour fees](#)
- Badwater
- Ubehebe Crater
- Zabriskie Point

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Directions:

- **South** of the park, Interstate 15 passes through Baker, California on its way from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. State Route 127 travels north from Baker to Shoshone and Death Valley Junction with connections to the park on State Route 178 from Shoshone and connection with California Highway 190 at Death Valley Junction.
- **Using GPS Navigation**
GPS Navigation to sites to remote locations like Death Valley are notoriously unreliable. Numerous travelers have been directed to the wrong location or even dead-end or closed roads. Travelers should always carry up-to-date road maps to check the accuracy of GPS directions.
DO NOT DEPEND ONLY ON YOUR VEHICLE GPS NAVIGATION SYSTEM.
- There is no specific street address for the park or the Furnace Creek Visitor Center. Many GPS users have had success using the street address for the Death Valley Post Office which is located about 400 meters south of the visitor center. The post office address is:
328 Greenland Blvd,
Death Valley, CA 92328
- Map coordinates for the visitor center are: N 36°27.70 W 116°52.00
- Google Map & Directions - [click here](#)

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Registration Form - One Form Per Person Please - Deadline March 7, 2012

FEES / INFO

Fees: No registration fees for this trip, however, please fill out the registration form, sign it and mail it to the address below.

Note: You are responsible for making your own camping reservations and paying the Death Valley National Park entrance fee.

Name (*please print*): _____

G.O. Member #: _____ Chapter: _____

Cell (preferred)/Land Phone: _____

Email (will be kept confidential): _____

Mail address: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Medical Insurance Carrier: _____

Group / Policy # _____
 (Individual travel and accident insurance is available from your local travel agent)

Physician: _____

Physician's Phone: _____

Please circle your best estimate of arrival and departure day and time:

I will be arriving on: _____ In the: AM Afternoon PM

I will be departing on: _____ In the: AM Afternoon PM

Note: If registrant has any medical conditions that we should be aware of, please write them on the back of this form or communicate them to the Trip Leader at the event. Carpooling is encouraged.

I am carpooling with:		
Sharing a tent/RV with:		
Can you offer a ride?	Y	N
Do you need a ride?	Y	N
Will you be bringing a 4x4 vehicle?	Y	N
If bringing a 4x4 vehicle, can you offer passenger space on daily runs?	Y	N

Health Problems/allergies: It is the responsibility of participants to carry on their person a record of significant allergies, medications and medical history in the event of a medical emergency.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY, MEDICAL RELEASE AND ASSIGNMENT

I am aware that my participation in GREAT OUTDOORS may include potentially hazardous activities and I am voluntarily participating in these activities with that knowledge and the understanding that I will use my own best judgment to avoid injury to myself and others. I agree to follow the directions of the trip leader and abide by the rules of the facility I am using. I hereby release GREAT OUTDOORS, including its officers, trail or trip leaders, agents or other persons working with said organization from any liability for injuries, physical or mental, which I may suffer by reason of any participation in these activities. I recognize in waiving this liability that I am assuming sole responsibility for my actions and cannot blame any injuries on any other persons connected with the GREAT OUTDOORS.

I hereby agree to assume full financial responsibility for any and all bills incurred by me for medical treatment as the result of my participation in this GREAT OUTDOORS activity. In the event that I am unable to consent to medical care, I hereby authorize the trip leader to consent to emergency medical treatment for me, including hospitalization and surgery, as may best be determined under the circumstances.

Sign by the X

Date:

Send Completed Registration Form To:
 Great Outdoors PS, 30480 Keith Avenue, Cathedral City, CA 92234-5817