DEATH VALLEY
Hiking Dunes, Canyons, and Badlands

March 14 - 19, 2021
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TRIP HIGHLIGHTS
► Explore Death Valley National Park, known for its extremes
► Hike to the top of Wildrose Peak at 9,064’ and on the bottom of Badwater Basin at 282’ below sea level
► Take in spectacular Death Valley sunrises and sunsets
► Learn about the geology and natural history of this unique area

TRIP ROUTE
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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

Day 1  arrive in Las Vegas, visit a ghost town en route to Death Valley National Park
Day 2  hike in Titus Canyon and Ubehebe Crater
Day 3  hike to the summit of Wildrose Peak at over 9,000 feet
Day 4  sunrise in the desert, hiking the Golden Canyon
Day 5  walk in the Badwater Basin, the lowest spot in the US, sunset in the desert, farewell dinner
Day 6  leave Death Valley, depart Las Vegas

ACTIVITY LEVEL
High Energy

TRIP PRICE
Main Trip: $5,150
DEATH VALLEY
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DAY 1
Sunday
3/14/21

Arrive in Death Valley
Welcome to Death Valley National Park! This is the hottest, driest, and lowest national park in the US, but the extremes offer striking contrast and spectacular scenery. Dunes give way to fields of wildflowers and towering peaks counter the lowest point in the United States. Explore the Park on many different hikes, learning about the geology and history of the area along the way.

During your Death Valley adventure, you’ll get to know your hiking guide, who will help you discover this unusual National Park. You are also accompanied by an AdventureWomen Ambassador, committed to helping make your experience a fun and personally rewarding adventure, and cheering you on as you reach beyond your comfort zone to take on new challenges in your own unique way!

Arrival Information
Arrive in Las Vegas, Nevada (LAS) before 8:00am. You may want to arrive a day early so you’re not pressed for time this morning.

Pick-up and Transfer
You will be picked up at 10:00am at the Hyatt Place Las Vegas Paradise Hotel. (The Hyatt has a free shuttle from the airport every 30 minutes from 4:00am-1:00am and is not far from the strip by taxi).

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
Leave Las Vegas and drive towards Death Valley. Stop along the way at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, where you’ll learn about this unique desert refuge’s life-sustaining springs and the endemic devil’s hole pupfish, the world’s rarest fish. Walk along the Crystal Springs boardwalk (less than 1 mile) to see the stunning azure waters bubbling out of the ground at 87 degrees. (Hiking: 1 mile)

Visit a Ghost Town
Head to Rhyolite, a ghost town originally founded during a gold boom in 1904. The town grew to have a population of thousands, but by 1916 it was abandoned.

Sunset Hike in the Dunes
Head into the dunes on a two-mile hike in the sand to enjoy the waning rays of sunlight. (Hiking: 2 miles)

Welcome Dinner
Enjoy a lively welcome dinner this evening at your hotel. Share stories and learn about why each woman in your trip is excited to explore more of Death Valley!

Accommodations
Stovepipe Wells Hotel
Meals Included
lunch, dinner
DEATH VALLEY
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Stovepipe Wells
While President Hoover proclaimed a national monument in Death Valley in 1933, Death Valley did not become a national park until 1994, one of the ten most recent parks created in the US. Shortly after the area was proclaimed a national monument, Congress reopened it to mining. Pit mines dotted the landscape, but public outcry led to the regulation and reduction of mining. In 1994, the national monument was expanded by 1.3 million acres and re-designated as a national park, making it the largest national park in the contiguous United States.

Titus Canyon Narrows
Continue your geological exploration of the area with a visit to the Titus Canyon narrows. Head out on a four-mile hike along a gravel road and marvel at the rock stratifications that were formed over millions of years. You might even see the elusive chuckwalla, a lizard with a unique defense mechanism – it can inflate itself in the cracks of rocks to deter predators. (Hiking: 4 miles)

Ubehebe Crater
Enjoy another picnic lunch before exploring the 600-foot-deep Ubehebe Crater, formed by a massive volcanic explosion that occurred when molten rock hit shallow ground water and turned the water to steam. Admire the view from one spot or join your guide for a hike along the rim for more views along the way. (Hiking: 2 miles)

Return to Your Hotel
Make your way back to your hotel, keeping a lookout for seasonal wildflower displays along the way.
DEATH VALLEY
Hiking Dunes, Canyons, and Badlands

Stovepipe Wells to Furnace Creek
Furnace Creek, the center of Death Valley, had a population of just 24 in the 2010 census. The first ranch was established in the area in 1833 and was renamed Furnace Creek Ranch in 1933.

Hike to Wildrose Peak
Check out of your hotel, lace up your boots, and head to the towering Panamint Range. If the weather cooperates, your starting point will be at 7,000 feet of elevation. Hike to the summit of Wildrose Peak (9,064’) where you’ll discover a view that is nothing short of stunning, displaying the varied landscape below. (If the weather doesn’t permit this hike, you’ll do a different hike with excellent views). (Hiking: 8 miles, 2,500-foot elevation gain)

Check in at Your Hotel
After your hike, check in at your hotel. You’ll have some time to shower and change before a well-deserved dinner.

Accommodations
The Ranch at Death Valley
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner
Furnace Creek
The Panamint Range is one of the few places where you can simultaneously see both the highest and lowest points in the contiguous United States – Mount Whitney and the Badwater Basin. The range runs north-south for about 100 miles forming the western wall of Death Valley.

Sunrise
Rise early to take in the sunrise from Zabriskie Point. The warm morning light will slowly illuminate the badlands and the Panamint Mountains. Head back to Furnace Creek for breakfast.

Hiking the Golden Canyon
Head out on foot through the multi-hued walls of Golden Canyon towards the Red Cathedral rock formation. Continue beneath Zabriskie Point and down into the badlands region of the Park, passing Manly Beacon. This hike will take most of the day and will involve some scrambling using your hands and feet – it’s nothing that requires technical skill, just more points of balance! (Hiking: 6 miles, 1,100-foot elevation gain/loss)

Afternoon and Evening at Leisure
Take the afternoon to relax and perhaps check out the spring-fed pool at your hotel. Enjoy dinner on your own at your hotel, the adjacent upscale Inn, the local saloon, or simply order some takeout!
DEATH VALLEY
Hiking Dunes, Canyons, and Badlands

Furnace Creek
Badwater Basin in the lowest point in North America at 282 feet below sea level. The site is named for its small spring-fed pool of “bad water;” the salts in the surrounding basin make it undrinkable. The annual rainfall of 1.9 inches is drastically overwhelmed by a 150-inch annual evaporation rate. At this rate a 12-foot deep lake could dry up within one year!

Devil’s Golf Course
Stop at the Devil’s Golf Course where you can admire the rugged salt formations in this part of the valley floor. The area is named because it would be a nightmare to try to find a golf ball here.

Badwater Pool
Drive to Badwater to see the spring-fed Badwater Pool, home to unique plant and insect life as well as a hearty snail species. Take a walk on Badwater Basin, a saltwater flat at 282 feet below sea level. This is the lowest place in North America and the 8th lowest spot on earth. The Panamint Range provides a dramatic backdrop, rising above 11,000’ to the west. (Hiking: 4 miles)

Afternoon on Your Own
Enjoy lunch on your own and perhaps relax by the pool this afternoon.

Sunset
Enjoy one last Death Valley sunset at the spectacular Artist’s Palette, a pastel collection of volcanic ash in the badlands. The warm fading light of day brings out the green, pink, and purple hues of the minerals.

Farewell Dinner
Have a farewell dinner with your new AdventureWomen friends at the elegant Inn. Reminisce over all the memories you have made and celebrate the end of an amazing journey through this truly spectacular area.
DEATH VALLEY

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Depart Death Valley
Bid farewell to your new friends and journey home.

Death Valley Junction
On your way from Death Valley back to Las Vegas, stop at Death Valley Junction, site of the famous Amargosa Opera House. Marta Becket stopped here while touring the west and in the span of a few hours decided to move from New York and take over the dilapidated theater to perform a one-woman show. Since she was never guaranteed an audience in such a remote location, she took several years to paint an eclectic group of spectators on the walls of the theater. Check out the award-winning documentary Amargosa to learn more of this unusual story.

China Ranch Date Farm
Make a second stop at the China Ranch date farm to enjoy a picnic lunch and enjoy a date milkshake.

Arrive in Las Vegas
You'll arrive in Las Vegas and be dropped off at the Hyatt Place Las Vegas Paradise Hotel at about 3:00pm.

Departure Information
Depart from Las Vegas, Nevada (LAS) after 6:00pm or plan to extend your trip a day or two to continue exploring.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.
DEATH VALLEY
Hiking Dunes, Canyons, and Badlands

Accommodation Details

Stovepipe Wells Hotel
Stovepipe Wells Hotel provides authentic western comfort in the vast landscape of Death Valley. Enjoy the outdoor pool with covered lounge area and take in breathtaking views of the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes and surrounding mountain ranges.
Amenities: Coming Soon

The Ranch at Death Valley
This former working ranch has been transformed into the perfect home base for exploring Death Valley National Park. Enjoy the classic town square with towering date palms and savor drinks and dinner at the Last Kind Words Saloon, which seems straight out of a western movie. The refreshing spring-fed pool is a nice way to cool off during the heat of the day.
Amenities: Coming Soon
DEATH VALLEY
Hiking Dunes, Canyons, and Badlands

Included:

► Accommodations as per itinerary based on single occupancy
► All meals as listed in the itinerary
► All ground transportation
► All park fees
► Activities as indicated in the itinerary
► Professional hiking guide
► Ample snacks throughout the trip

Not Included:

► Airfare to and from Las Vegas
► Optional activities
► Meals not specified in the itinerary
► Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
► Fees for travel insurance
► Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
► Items of a personal nature
► Gratuities
DEATH VALLEY
Hiking Dunes, Canyons, and Badlands

Cancellations and Refunds
Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips
Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

No Smoking Policy
Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Health Insurance
You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today
At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not “tours.” We define “adventure travel!” as travel in which one actively participates, as opposed to a “tour,” in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends. Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. Being on time is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!