

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

DEATH VALLEY

Hiking Dunes, Canyons, and Badlands



March 3 - 8, 2024



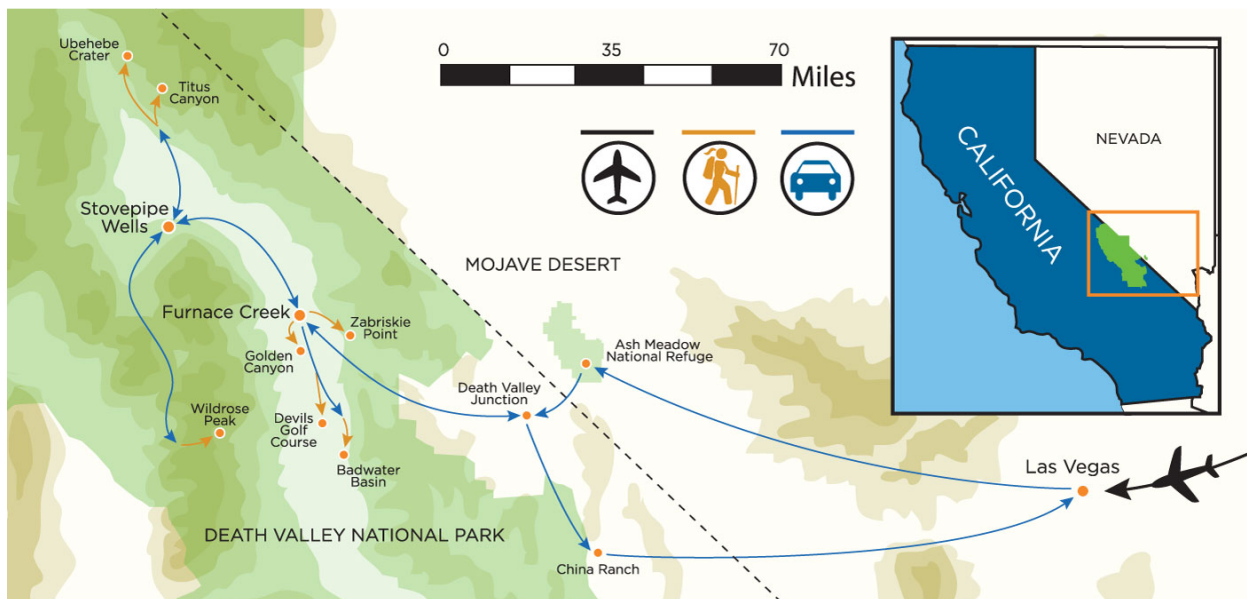
DEATH VALLEY

Hiking Dunes, Canyons, and Badlands

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: \$4,895

Optional Single Accommodations: \$1,000

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your adventure
in depth

DAY 1
Sunday
3/3/24

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 Hampton Inn Las Vegas Strip South. (The Hampton Inn has a free shuttle from the airport every 30 minutes 24 hours a day 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)

Picnic Lunch

Enjoy a picnic lunch at the Point of Rocks. Take an optional walk after lunch if you'd like.

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: 3 miles)

Accommodations
Stovepipe Wells
Hotel
Meals Included
lunch, dinner

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

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DAY 2
Monday
3/4/24

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. Enjoy dinner as a group this evening.

Accommodations
Stovepipe Wells
Hotel
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 3
Tuesday
3/5/24

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 the 1870's 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). Enjoy a picnic lunch along the way. (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 at the Last Kind Words Saloon.

Meet a Female Park Ranger

You will have the opportunity to meet with a female park ranger who will share her experience working in the park. She's happy to answer any questions you may have, so don't be shy!

Accommodations
The Ranch at Death
Valley
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 4
Wednesday
3/6/24

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! A picnic lunch will be provided today. (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!

Accommodations
The Ranch at Death Valley
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch

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DAY 5
Thursday
3/7/24

Furnace Creek

Badwater Basin is 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!

Dante's View

The first stop this morning is at Dante's View which provides panoramic views including Telescope Peak, the highest point in the park. While at the lookout point, you will see the impact of millions of years of erosion that has formed the park's famed alluvial fans. Enjoy a hike with amazing views (Hiking: up to 2 miles with 400 ft of elevation gain/loss).

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: 2 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.

Accommodations
The Ranch at Death
Valley
Meals Included
breakfast, dinner

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DAY 6
Friday
3/8/24

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 Hampton Inn Las Vegas Strip South 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.

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch

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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: Hairdryer, air conditioning

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: hairdryer, air conditioning, WiFi

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Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double 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 for the main guide

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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!**

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!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a