



ADVENTURES
in good company



DEATH VALLEY DELIGHTS

TRIP SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Learning all about the fascinating geology of Death Valley
- Visiting our hottest, driest, and lowest National Park
- Hiking across badlands, through canyons, and around an old volcano
- Visiting eerie and dramatic Rhyolite Ghost Town
- Stargazing in one of the darkest skies you'll ever see
- Wearing shorts in February!

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Death Valley National Park, CA
Activities:	Hiking
Arrive:	Arrive Las Vegas (LAS) any time before 5 p.m.
Depart:	We will be back at the Las Vegas airport in time for flights out after 5 p.m.

TRIP OVERVIEW

A Death Valley hiking tour is the perfect antidote to the winter blahs and one of the best warm winter vacations in the United States! In February the skies are clear and sunny (but not too hot!) and the hiking is excellent. In addition to unique ecology and engaging human history, there is fascinating geology that our guides will help us understand. We'll visit Rhyolite Ghost Town with its deserted ruins and famous 'bottle house'; a saltwater river in the desert; the lowest point in the whole US; and an old volcanic crater. If you long to put away your down jacket and put on your shorts, feel warm sun on your deprived skin, and be totally immersed in a place that has a mythic status for many of us, join us for five days as we explore one of our newest National Parks. By the end of the trip you'll have higher Vitamin D levels and a whole new appreciation of this unique landscape.

Maximum group size: 12

RATING

This trip is designed for any active woman who wants to explore Death Valley. This is an excellent trip for novice hikers: the hikes, while providing both variety and challenge, are moderate in length, and the guides will provide tips and instruction so that by the end you will be a confident hiker. A rating of 2 is suitable for any woman who regularly walks at a **brisk** pace 3 to 4 days a week for 35 - 45 minutes. **Rating:** 1 [\[2\]](#) 3 4 5.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size
- Four nights of double occupancy accommodation
- All meals from dinner on the first day to lunch on the last
- Round-trip transportation from Las Vegas to Death Valley, all transportation during the trip and transportation back to the Las Vegas airport
- National Park entry fees

Not included: Travel to Las Vegas at the beginning of the trip and to the trip hotel, trip insurance, alcoholic beverages and guide gratuities

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

February and March are typically excellent hiking, with temperatures in the high 60's to low 70's. The following itinerary may be adjusted because of weather, availability of ranger talks, group wishes, etc. Our trip starts today in Las Vegas. Arrive any time before 5:00 p.m. Catch a convenient shuttle to our hotel, where we will meet at 5:30 p.m. We'll start getting to know each other and review our plans for the trip, before sharing our first dinner. The evening is free for you to get to bed early or wander the strip. (D)

DAY 2

Today we will make our way to Death Valley National Park, a drive that takes about 2.5 hours. We're headed first to Rhyolite, the historic ruins of a 1905 goldmining town built on silica-rich volcanic rock laced with gold! Rhyolite lies just outside the northern entrance to the park. We enter the park from this direction, through Hell's Gate where you'll get your first introduction to the complex geology of the area. After a picnic lunch we'll make our way to the Visitors Center and then on to our lodging for the next 3 nights - the Ranch at Furnace Creek.

Once we've unloaded our luggage, there's one more spot to visit before our first day is over – Badwater Basin – one of the most famous places in Death Valley! Bad Water Basin is the lowest point in North America, with an elevation of 282 feet below sea level! Geologically, Bad Water Basin is a salt pan that is covered each year by rainfall. We'll take a walk on the salt pan and marvel at the salt formations before heading back to the Oasis for dinner and our first overnight in the valley. Overnight Ranch at Furnace Creek. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

Death Valley is a huge park, a fact we will appreciate more fully after today. This morning we will first hike the Golden Canyon-Gower Gulch Loop. This 4.5-mile loop trail first takes us through colorful Golden Canyon and then up and over a ridge, passing beneath Manley Beacon. The trail then drops into Gower Gulch, another canyon but with a completely different feel and footing than Golden Canyon. The loop ends with a traverse along the base of the cliffs that rise abruptly from the flatter plain below. (Note: This hike may be done in the opposite direction.)

Lunch today will be along the trail, perhaps at the top of the hike under Manly Peak with its magnificent views of the golden mudstone hills of this gulch. Returning to our lodging we'll take a short break before heading off to our afternoon activities. Depending on weather and interest there are lots of choices, including taking the rest of the afternoon to relax. Regardless of your afternoon choice, the group will once again gather, this time heading to Mesquite Dunes – spectacular sand dunes that stretch as far as the eye can see – an excellent time to play in the sand and enjoy the sunset. After enjoying the dunes, we'll head into the nearby historic Stovepipe Wells settlement for dinner. If the skies are clear, perhaps one more stop on the way back to the Ranch at the Dunes for a bit of star gazing - wide open skies and no ambient light! A fun day! Overnight Ranch at Furnace Creek (B, L, D)

DAY 4

We'll begin a bit early this morning to make sure we have time for everything! After driving an hour into the northern part of the Park, our first stop will be the 600-foot deep Ubehebe Crater, the remnants of a massive hydrovolcanic explosion 300 years ago. We will hike along the west rim of the Crater to Little Hebe and several other craters, before continuing around the rim for a total of 1.5 miles. After conquering the crater, we'll enjoy a picnic lunch and then visit Salt Creek Interpretative Trail. An easy boardwalk takes us to the Creek, a stream of salty water that is the only habitat of the endangered pupfish. Back at the ranch, the rest of the afternoon is free. Your guides will once again have some options for short hikes or perhaps some time lounging by the outdoor swimming pool, relaxing outside reading that good book you brought or visiting the Borax Museum on property is on your personal agenda – all good choices! We'll gather late afternoon for appetizers prior to dinner and talking about our time in this beautiful desert valley. Overnight Ranch at Furnace Creek (B, L, D)

DAY 5

Today we have to head back to our real lives, but we'll do a bit of exploring along the way. On the way out of the park, we'll stop at another famous spot, Zabriskie Point for a last look over the valley and a chance to get those last geology questions answered. On the way back to Las Vegas there are a couple of other stops possible depending on timing which would include a visit to the Armargosa Opera House in Armargosa and lunch at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge for a last chance to see pup fish. We will return to the Las Vegas Airport by 3:00 p.m. and you can either plan to fly out after 5:00 p.m. or stick around and try your luck. (B, L)

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

If you are flying: The airport in Las Vegas (LAS) is the closest airport to fly in for the Death Valley trip. All major airlines as well as many of the lower cost competitors fly into LAS.

The hotel we are staying in (along with the majority of Las Vegas hotels) does not have a dedicated airport shuttle. There are continuous and inexpensive shuttle services available just outside the baggage claims area of the airport. Check out: <https://www.mccarran.com/Transportation/Shuttles> for a current list of airport shuttles. Please note that some shuttles service only those hotels located on the strip (which ours is not). Your trip cost includes transportation back to the airport on the last day of the trip.

If you are driving: Please plan to arrive at the Tuscany Suites and Casino before 5 p.m. Use the following address for your GPS device: 255 E Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV for your GPS device. You can leave your car at the Tuscany Inn and Suites for the duration of the trip at no charge. Upon check in, let reception know that you would like to leave your car for the week. They will give you specific directions regarding where to park.

GETTING HOME

We will return to the Las Vegas Airport (LAS) by 3:00 p.m. on Day 5, and you can plan to fly out after 5:00 p.m.

AIRFARE

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We'll start with one night at a hotel in Las Vegas and then spend three nights at [Ranch at Furnace Creek](#). We will be staying in the deluxe rooms, which have French doors leading to small patios adjacent to the park/pool area, two queen beds, air conditioning, hair dryers, in-room coffee makers, TV, phone, full private bath and mini refrigerator.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/index.aspx?location=06-0331&go=bp> or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331. or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

[Click here for our Cancellation & Payment Policies and Booking Terms & Conditions.](#)