



Death Valley Photography Tour

Learn about nature and nature photography in Death Valley, focusing on the fabulous landscapes in this new national park. Travel to some of the Valley's more famous locations, including the giant sand dunes, Badwater, and Zabriskie Point. Also, visit less known but equally fascinating places in the Valley. We may have an opportunity to photograph wildlife such as coyotes, road runners, and rather unusual insects, as well as desert wildflowers. Limited to 9 participants.

About your leader:

Dave Wyman has conducted innumerable outings to Death Valley, from photography workshops to backpack trips, since 1973. Some of his Death Valley images appear in the *Sierra Club Guidebook to National Parks of California* and Wyman's own book, *Backroads of Southern California*.

Dates: Thursday, April 2 to Sunday, April 5, 2009

Cost: \$450 per person; Single supplement \$200; Optional \$150 transportation

DAY 1

Meet at the Mission Brewery Airport Parking located at 1765 Hancock Street, San Diego (\$8 per day; 619.296.7275) at 8 AM to depart by van. Or, leave on your own to arrive at Stovepipe Wells Motel (760.786.2387) in Death Valley, on Highway 190. Depart from Stovepipe Wells to photograph afternoon light on the giant sand dunes, a group dinner and an evening slide show.

DAY 2

Arise early to photograph sunlight over the giant sand dunes. "Sleepy heads" can meet the group for breakfast on our return to Stovepipe Wells. Depart for Furnace Creek area. Picnic lunch after visiting Badwater and the adjacent salt flats. Travel to Zabriskie Point and Salt Creek in the afternoon. Return to Stovepipe Wells for dinner and a slide show.

DAY 3

Explore fantastic Titus Canyon, with its soaring rock walls and colorful desert vistas. Also, photograph the ghost town of Rhyolite. Return to Stovepipe Wells for dinner.

DAY 4

Continue the exploration of fantastic Titus Canyon. If the canyon road is closed (due to the occasional wash-out), visit Scotty's Castle, and then depart for San Diego.

Cost includes:

Accommodations at Stovepipe Wells Motel (760.786.2387), welcome dinner, picnic lunch and an amazing array of field locations.

Cost does not include:

Other meals not included.

Suggested Equipment List:

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera gear
- Money for gasoline and for meals
- Clothes for cool and warm conditions, including a knit cap or ski cap and sun hat
- Comfortable walking shoes and an extra pair of shoes
- Optional items: camp chair (for our picnic lunch); prints or a CD with up to 20 of your photographs

Photographic Equipment: this is the trip to bring it all along—super-wide angle lenses, telephoto optics, filters, etc. However, a basic digital or 35mm camera with one lens will work just fine. Two recommended accessories are: a **tripod**, to allow you to photograph early and late in the day, and a **remote release** to trigger your camera while it's on the tripod. Two filters for aficionados: the **polarizer** and the 81A or 81B warming filter (the latter for photographers using film).

Film Considerations: Bring any sort of film. Fujichrome slide films offer the best in color saturation and is very fine grained. The moderately priced Sensia is an excellent choice, particularly the 100-speed film. Both Fuji and Kodak have excellent print films. A good, all-around film speed for print film is about ISO 200.

Digital Photographers: Don't forget extra batteries, battery chargers, and enough SD or CF cards.

Weather: Expect mild to warm days, and cool evenings. Just about anything is possible, from temperatures in the 80's during the day and down to the 30's in the evening (although either extreme is rare). Be prepared with a variety of clothing. Inclement weather, such as afternoon thundershowers, is sometimes the best weather for photography and won't cancel or curtail our field sessions.

Note: If you'd like to share some of your own images with the group, bring slides (12 slides maximum), digital images (on a CD or your laptop), and/or as many prints as you wish. Also, **share your favorite photos** from a Museum overnight expedition! Visit <http://www.sdnhm.org/trips/index.html>.

To register, call 619.255.0203 or visit www.sdnhm.org.