

Death Valley Scenic Byway

A gateway to over 3.3 million acres of spectacular scenery, expansive vistas, rare desert wildlife, and historical and cultural sites; this byway travels through sculpted hills and shifting sand dunes and even dips below sea level. Death Valley features the lowest point and the hottest place in North America.



Length: 81.5 miles / 130.4 km

Time Two hours to drive or four to hours to enjoy the entire

Allow: byway

Local Information

Death Valley National Park

760-786-3200

Visitor Services

Fees



There is an entrance fee to the national park.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Death Valley Scenic Byway accommodates bicycles. Visitors have opportunities to get out of their vehicles at several vista points and scenic overlooks (i.e., Father Crowley Point) and hiking trails (i.e., trailhead leading to Darwin Falls). However, there is not a separate bicycle/pedestrian lane along the byway.

Camping



There are 11 campgrounds located in the Death Valley National Park. Nine of them are operated by the National Park Service, and the other two are privately owned. Most of them have flush toilets and water. Furnace Creek, Mesquite Springs, Wildrose, Panamint Springs, and Emigrant are open year-round. Texas Spring, Sunset, and Stove Pipe Wells are open in the winter only. Mahogany Flat and Thorndike are open in the summer only.

Food



Restaurants are available at Furnace Creek, Stovepipe Wells Village, and Panamint Springs along the byway and at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley National Park.

Gasoline



Gas is available at Panamint Springs, Stovepipe Wells, Scotty's Castle, and Furnace Creek. Mechanic services can be found in Furnace Creek.



Information

Travelers are encouraged to stop and spend time at the Visitor Center in Furnace Creek, where exhibits, audiovisual programs, and publications on the rich cultural and natural history of this area can be enjoyed.



Lodging

Lodging is available at the area's private resorts and motels at the Furnace Creek Inn, Furnace Creek Ranch, Panamint Springs Resort, and from the park concessionaires at Stovepipe Wells Village.



Phone

Public phones are available along this byway.



Restrooms

There are toilet facilities along this byway.



Retail

The Furnace Creek Ranch and the Stovepipe Wells Village both provide small camper stores with staple goods and limited supplies.

Special Considerations

Visitors should be aware of the area's extreme heat, lack of water, and occasional flash floods.

Restrictions

Route 190 is fully paved and open year-round. Road conditions are posted at Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells and are available from the park's website. Access to Death Valley National Park can be limited by winter snowstorms when traveling from the west over the Sierra Nevada in California on Routes 108 and 120 and on Route 160 from Las Vegas to the east in Nevada. During the year, occasional flash flooding can occur and wash out parts of the roads in the park.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Winter and spring months are ideal for driving the byway.

High Season

Springtime is the busiest time of year on the byway.

Map and Directions



Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

Driving Directions


- Begin at the eastern entrance of Death Valley National Park, roughly 13 miles west of Death Valley Junction on Hwy 190.
- Continue along Hwy 190 northwest past Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells, where the road will turn southwest.
- Continue past Panamint Valley and Father Crowley Point.
- End at the western boundary of Death Valley National Park.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby cities

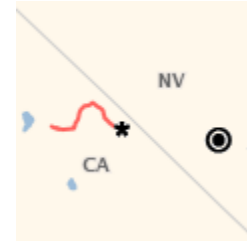
Las Vegas, NV (115 miles / 185.07 km, 2 hours)

Start:  Alexander Rd and Cimarron Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89129
N 36.233° W 115.270° [?]

Directions:

- Get on I-15 south.
- Turn onto NV-160 west.
- Follow NV-160.
- Turn left at W. Bell Vista Ave.
- Merge onto Ash Meadows Road as you cross the state border into California turning into State Line Road.

Junction with byway: * CA-190 W at the entrance of Death Valley National Park
N 36.346° W 116.618° [?]



Road Trip: Death Valley History Tour

Departure: Death Valley National Park, California

Destination: Stovepipe Wells Village, California

Time to allow: 2 days

Death Valley National Park is known for its intense heat and for containing the lowest elevation point in North America. Come learn the lesser-known history of the park as you explore a castle that's rumored to be built by gold from a secret mine. You'll also learn about how borax and gold prospects faded into ghost towns and movie sets.

Day 1

- **Start: Death Valley National Park**

Begin your journey along CA-190 on the east side of Death Valley National Park, named by a group of pioneers who got lost in the valley in 1849.



- **Stop 2: Furnace Creek Visitor Center and Museum**



From previous stop: 22 minutes / 13.8 mi (22.1 km)

Directions: Drive northwest on CA-190 toward Furnace Creek Road. Turn left on Airport Road, then take a slight right into the Visitor Center parking lot.

Suggested time at this stop: 45 minutes

Stop by the visitor's center, pick up a visitor guide, and orient yourself to the park. Browse the museum and discuss your plans with a ranger.

- **Stop 3: Furnace Creek**

From previous stop: 1 minute / 0.6 mi (1.0 km)

Directions: Exit the parking lot and get back onto Airport Road heading east. Turn right onto CA-178/CA-190 and drive south until you reach the Furnace Creek Ranch entrance.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

While you're in Furnace Creek, take time to explore the interpretive trails and museums. Don't miss the Borax Museum, which will give you a background of the mining history of the area and prepare you for upcoming stops.

- **Stop 4: Harmony Borax Works Interpretive Trail**

From previous stop: 3 minutes / 1.9 mi (3.0 km)

Directions: Take CA-178/CA-190 north and turn left at Mill Road.

Suggested time at this stop: 40 minutes

This route travels around the ruins of a borax processing plant, home to the original 20-mule team wagons, and was active in the late 1800s. Walk the short half-mile loop and learn from the interpretive signs along the trail.

- **Stop 5: Rhyolite Ghost Town**



From previous stop: 1 hour 7 minutes / 37 mi (59.2 km)

Directions: At the end of Mill Road, turn left onto CA-178/CA-190. Take a right at the Daylight Pass Cutoff, then a slight right at Daylight Pass Road. Continue on NV-374 out of the park, taking a left in 8.8 miles. Take a slight right to the ghost town of Rhyolite.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

The town of Rhyolite appeared after gold was found in the area, eventually spawning hotels, stores, a school, an ice plant, electric plants, foundries, machine shops, and a miner's union hospital. Few of these buildings are still standing, including some walls of a three-story bank, part of the jail, the train depot (privately owned), and the Bottle House, which was restored in 1925 by Paramount pictures, then re-restored in 2005 with historic preservation funds. The ghost town of Rhyolite is on a mixture of federal and private land and is not within the Death Valley National Park boundaries.

- **End: Furnace Creek**

From previous stop: 1 hour 9 minutes / 39 mi (62.4 km)

Directions: Drive south, and turn right onto NV-374. After re-entering Death Valley National Park, continue on Daylight Pass Road, taking a left onto Daylight Pass Cutoff/Beatty Road. Merge onto CA-178/CA-190 south until you reach Furnace Creek Ranch.

Fill your vehicle up with gas, stock up on water for tomorrow, and enjoy a calm, restful night in the cool desert air.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 92.3 miles / 147.7 km

Total Travel Time: 2 hours 42 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 3 hours 25 minutes

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Scotty's Castle**



From previous stop: 1 hour 25 minutes / 54.8 mi (87.7 km)

Directions: Drive northwest on CA-178/CA-190 for about 18 miles, then turn right onto N Highway. Scotty's Castle will be on the left in a little over 36 miles.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Learn about quirky prospector Death Valley Scotty, who made misleading claims that the castle was built from a gold mine nearby. Take a tour of the building for a glimpse into the 1920s and 1930s. *Note: If you plan on visiting Scotty's Castle, plan ahead. The tours are limited to a certain number of people per day, and tickets are sold on a first come, first serve basis.*

- **Stop 2: The Wildrose Charcoal Kilns**



From previous stop: 2 hours 20 minutes / 80.8 mi (129.3 km)

Directions: Get back onto N highway heading south. Turn right at CA-178/CA-190 for 16.4 miles. Take a left onto CA-178/Wildrose Road for about 21 miles, then continue on Mahogany Flat Road to the kilns. *Note: This is a narrow and windy road. There are length restrictions- vehicles over 25 ft. are not allowed. Drive slowly and enjoy the views.*

Suggested time at this stop: 40 minutes

Considered to be the best surviving examples of this particular type of kiln, each of the 10 kilns stands 25 feet tall and has an approximate circumference of 30 feet. The last two miles of road to the kilns are gravel, and are passable by most vehicles.

- **End: Stovepipe Wells Village**

From previous stop: 1 hour 13 minutes / 37.2 mi (59.5 km)

Directions: Return to CA-178/CA-190 via Mahogany Flat Road and CA-178/Wildrose Road. Drive east until you reach Stovepipe Wells Village.

Spend some time in Stovepipe Wells Village, where you can spend the night at a resort and enjoy a dip in the swimming pool; or, you can pitch a tent or hook up your RV at a nearby campground.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 172.8 miles / 276.5 km

Total Travel Time: 4 hours 58 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 2 hours 40 minutes