

Ranger Programs

Death Valley National Park

November 22 to November 29, 2009



Furnace Creek Visitor Center and Museum:

Open 8 to 5 daily. Exhibits cover geology, climate, plants and animals, and human history of the park. The 15-minute orientation program runs continuously, 8:00 to 4:30.

Scotty's Castle Visitor Center and Museum:

Open 8:30 to 5:30 daily. Exhibits about the history and the colorful characters of Scotty's Castle.

SUNDAY November 22

- 9:00 - 5:00 **Scotty's Castle Tours** (Historic House Tours and Underground Tours) Step back in time to 1939 with a Ranger in period costume on a guided tour of Scotty's Castle or a special tour of the basement and tunnel system. A fee is charged for each of these 50-minute tours.
- 10:00 a.m. **Who Passed This Way?** (Ranger Talk) Join a Park Ranger to learn about the people of the past here in Death Valley. Who were they? why were they here? FC Visitor Center patio. 30 min.
- 2:00 p.m. **Bighorn Sheep Discovery Tour** (Ranger Talk and Wildlife Viewing) Join a naturalist for a 20-minute talk on how the Bighorn survive in Death Valley. Bring your binoculars to scan for sheep as recent sightings have greatly increased our odds of observing this shy animal. Meet along Hwy 190 by the large Park Entrance sign, 14 miles east of the FC Visitor Center. 1 hour.
- 7:00 p.m. **1926 Death Valley Road Trip** (Evening Program) Join an early auto expedition into the desert and compare their experiences with ours. FC Visitor Center Auditorium. 45 minutes.

MONDAY November 23

- 9:00 - 5:00 **Scotty's Castle Tours** (Historic House Tours and Underground Tours) Step back in time to 1939 with a Ranger in period costume on a guided tour of Scotty's Castle or a special tour of the basement and tunnel system. A fee is charged for each of these 50-minute tours.
- 10:00 a.m. **Adapt or Die** (Ranger Talk) It takes special skills to survive the environment of Death Valley. Learn some of the tricks the plants and animals have developed to sustain their own health and that of the fragile desert ecosystem. FC Visitor Center patio. 30 min.
- 2:00 p.m. **Exploration Through Archeology** (Ranger Talk) Discover what archeologists re-

ally do in national parks. Are they all like Indiana Jones? FC Visitor Center patio. 30 min.

- 7:00 p.m. **Wagons, Trains, & Automobiles** (Evening Program) How transportation changed Death Valley from unknown land, to land of use, to land preserved. FC Visitor Center auditorium. 1 hour.

TUESDAY November 24

- 9:00 - 5:00 **Scotty's Castle Tours** (Historic House Tours and Underground Tours) Step back in time to 1939 with a Ranger in period costume on a guided tour of Scotty's Castle or a special tour of the basement and tunnel system. A fee is charged for each of these 50-minute tours.
- 10:00 a.m. **Photography in Death Valley** (Ranger Talk) Learn some simple photographic tricks and techniques to capture the wonder of this special place. FC VisitorCenter Patio. 40 min.
- 2:00 p.m. **Borax, Death Valley, & the Western Myth** (Guided Walk) Much of the myth of the west came from fictionalized stories of not-so-glorious events in spectacular settings. Visit one location where the reality of harsh labor evolved into enduring iconic images of the winning of the west. Meet at the Harmony Borax parking area. Easy, 1/2-mile walk. 1 1/2 hours.
- 7:00 p.m. **Boom & Bust** (Evening Program) Death Valley mining camps were as ephemeral as desert wildflowers. Both depended on water. Take a look at boom....and bust times in Death Valley. FC Visitor Center Auditorium. 50 minutes.

WEDNESDAY November 25

- 9:00 - 5:00 **Scotty's Castle Tours** (Historic House Tours and Underground Tours) Step back in time to 1939 with a Ranger in period costume on a guided tour of Scotty's Castle or a special tour of the basement and tunnel system. A fee is charged for each of these 50-minute tours.

- 10:00 a.m. **Exploration Through Archeology** (Ranger Talk) Discover what archeologists really do in national parks. Are they all like Indiana Jones? FC Visitor Center patio. 30 minutes.
- 2:00 p.m. **Borax, the White Gold** (Ranger Talk) Borax and 20-mule teams are synonymous with Death Valley to many people. What is borax and why was it so important to the development of the National Park? FC Visitor Center Patio. 40 minutes.
- 7:00 p.m. **Death Valley Caverns** (Evening Program) Can there be water-worn caves in the desert? Come to hear first-hand experiences of one of our ranger-cavers. FC Visitor Center Auditorium. 40 minutes.

THURSDAY November 26

- 9:00 - 5:00 **Scotty's Castle Tours** (Historic House Tours and Underground Tours) Step back in time to 1939 with a Ranger in period costume on a guided tour of Scotty's Castle or a special tour of the basement and tunnel system. A fee is charged for each of these 50-minute tours.
- 10:00 a.m. **The Spice of Life!** (Guided Walk) Discover the many different strategies that plants and animals use to adapt to this hot, dry climate. Meet along Hwy 190 by the large Park-Entrance sign, 14 miles east of the FC Visitor Center. Easy, 1 mile, 1½ hour
- 2:00 p.m. **Badwater Walk** (Ranger Walk) Join a Ranger on a walk onto the salt flats. Learn about faults, springs...and all that salt. Meet at the Badwater parking lot. Easy walk. 1 mile, 1½ hrs.
- 7:00 p.m. **Rare as Rain** (Evening Program) Sunshine and blue skies in the desert can get a little tedious after a while, but a Death Valley rain-storm is always a special treat!. FC Visitor Center Auditorium. 45 minutes.

FRIDAY November 27

- 9:00 - 5:00 **Scotty's Castle Tours** (Historic House Tours and Underground Tours) Step back in time to 1939 with a Ranger in period costume on a guided tour of Scotty's Castle or a special tour of the basement and tunnel system. A fee is charged for each of these 50-minute tours.
- 10:00 a.m. **Water, Rock & Time** (Guided Walk) Explore one of Death Valley's most colorful canyons. Meet at the Mosaic Canyon parking area. Moderate walk, some rock scrambling involved. 1½ mile round trip, 1½ hrs.
- 11:00 a.m. **Furnace Creek Inn Tour** (Guided Walk) One of the great national park lodges, yet unknown to most park visitors. Join a ranger to discover the beauty of this historic hotel. Meet at the parking area below the inn. The tour route involves many stairs. 90 minutes.

- 2:00 p.m. **Scary Creepy Crawly Critters** (Ranger Talk) Death Valley is home to rattlesnakes, scorpions, and tarantulas. These desert denizens terrify many of us. Just how dangerous are they? FC Visitor Center Patio, 30 minutes.
- 7:00 p.m. **Wagons, Trains, & Automobiles** (Evening Program) How transportation changed Death Valley from unknown land, to land of use, to land preserved. FC Visitor Center auditorium. 1 hour.

SATURDAY November 28

- 9:00 - 5:00 **Scotty's Castle Tours** (Historic House Tours and Underground Tours) Step back in time to 1939 with a Ranger in period costume on a guided tour of Scotty's Castle or a special tour of the basement and tunnel system. A fee is charged for each of these 50-minute tours.
- 10:00 a.m. **The Big Picture** (Ranger Talk) Explore all the were's, what's, and why's of a bird's-eye view of the park. FC Visitor Center museum. 30 min.
- 2:00 p.m. **The Spice of Life!** (Guided Walk) Discover the many different strategies that plants and animals use to adapt to this hot, dry climate. Meet along Hwy 190 by the large Park-Entrance sign, 14 miles east of the FC Visitor Center. Easy, 1 mile, 1½ hour
- 7:00 p.m. **1926 Death Valley Road Trip** (Evening Program) Join an early auto expedition into the desert and compare their experiences with ours. FC Visitor Center Auditorium. 45 min.

SUNDAY November 29

- 9:00 - 5:00 **Scotty's Castle Tours** (Historic House Tours and Underground Tours) Step back in time to 1939 with a Ranger in period costume on a guided tour of Scotty's Castle or a special tour of the basement and tunnel system. A fee is charged for each of these 50-minute tours.
- 10:00 a.m. **Dunes Exploration** (Guided Walk) Who lives out there and how do they survive? Meet at the Sand Dunes interpretive sign, 2 miles east of Stovepipe Wells. Easy, 1 mile walk. 1½ hours.
- 2:00 p.m. **Death Valley Palms** (Guided Walk) Take an easy stroll over to the Furnace Creek Ranch Date Orchard to learn about what date palms are and why so many are there. ¼ mile, 1 hr.
- 7:00 p.m. **Evening Program** Subject to be announced. FC Visitor Center auditorium. 1 hour.