Are you curious about geology? Intrigued by Death Valley? Then this trip is for you.

**General Class Description:** We will travel by vans to various stops where we can see, discuss, and learn to recognize aspects of the geology of the Death Valley area. Several stops involve short hikes of about ¼ mile, often cross country rather than on a trail. This is not meant to be a hiking trip, but it is also not a bus trip. Those in good health, and willing to walk across rocks and gravel, and up small hills, should have no problem. No prior training in geology is required, but there will be ample opportunities to get more technical information if desired.

**IMPORTANT:** We will meet at 8 pm, Friday evening, Jan 18, in the lobby of the Longstreet Inn Casino for a required Orientation and Safety meeting.

**Program Ends:** Monday, Jan 21, at 12:30.

**Refunds:** Self-service cancellations can be refunded through Eventbrite up to 7 days prior to the event start date. After Jan 11 refunds are possible if ticket can be resold - contact program coordinator Renee Rusler at dvi@dvnha.org.

**Cost:** Program price: $285 + $13.78 Eventbrite ticketing fee: which covers 2 ½ days of expert presentations and led excursions, van transportation during program, 2 lunches, and the park entrance fee. Participants are responsible for their lodging, meals (except the two provided lunches), and transportation to and from the program.

**Lodging:** Two blocks of rooms have been reserved at the Longstreet Inn Casino and RV Park: www.longstreetcasino.com, (775) 372-1777. Rooms are double queen, $85-$95/night double occupancy (Highway side / Lake side). FYI: There is a $5 deposit per key, which is refunded when you return your key at checkout. The RV park is across the street; sites are $25 per night ($22.50 for Good Sam members). There are no other convenient camping options nearby.

The hotel and RV park are located at the Nevada/California state line, 6 miles north of Death Valley Junction. This is about 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, and 38 miles east of Furnace Creek at the heart of Death Valley.

**Meals:** We will supply box lunches on Saturday, Jan 19, and Sunday, Jan 20. Participants are responsible for other meals. There is a restaurant at the Longstreet.

**Transportation:** Participants are responsible for getting to and from the Longstreet Inn Casino, where each day’s adventure begins.

**GENERAL ITINERARY**

**Friday, January 18:** You need to get to the lobby of the Longstreet in time for our 8 pm Orientation Meeting, which should last only an hour at most.

**Saturday and Sunday, January 19 and 20:** The hotel restaurant opens for breakfast at 7:00 am. The vans leave for the geology excursion at 8:00 a.m. sharp. A typical geology stop will involve a brief talk about what we can see and then time to look around, ask questions, and do a little walking. We will provide a box lunch around noon. We will also carry a limited supply of snacks in all the vehicles. There are a few toilets in the Park, and we will stop at them when possible. There are also secluded places at many of the stops you can use when necessary. We practice
Leave-No-Trace principles, which means we pack out everything except fluids. January days are short: we will use all the day-light hours, and return to the hotel after dark, around 6 pm.

**Monday, January 21:** You will need to check out before we leave at 8:30 a.m. Please plan on getting up a bit earlier, so you can pack, have breakfast, and check-out. We will do a half-day of geology stops and return to Longstreet at 12:30. At that point the program is concluded.

**FAQ:**

*Can I camp elsewhere and just drive to and from the Longstreet Hotel?*
It will work best if everyone stays either at the Longstreet or the adjacent RV park. There are no other nearby camping locations. In addition, based on experience, trips have a way of getting fouled up when people are scattered all over.

*How do the breakfast and dinner meals work?*
These are not included in the course fee. The Longstreet has a restaurant that you can access for breakfast and dinner, and lunch on Friday, as you wish. We do provide box lunches for Saturday and Sunday.

*I know no geology but am interested. Will I be able to understand?*
We hope so. Our intent is to introduce Death Valley geology and its mysteries to those interested, but with little or no prior knowledge.

*I know a lot of geology. Am I going to be bored?*
Not a chance. You will be blown away by what you see. We can discuss things at whatever level you want after the intro talk and people start looking around on their own. We can also talk in the evenings.

*Who is the trip leader Paul Knauth and what does he know about Death Valley?*
Dr. Knauth is a recently retired professor from the School of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University. He was introduced to Death Valley geology by the legendary Robert Sharp on a Caltech class field trip in 1970 and has been going back as frequently as possible ever since. He has led class trips from ASU to the southern end of the valley and led three previous ASU sponsored trips for the public similar to what is planned for this one. He is an isotope geochemist concerned with broader aspects of Earth history, the geology of Mars, and Astrobiology. He has published several papers involving research in Death Valley. He still has many questions about the many geologic mysteries in this area. Many of these will be pointed out on the trip. This trip will be similar to the trip he led last year.

*Will we see iconic places in Death Valley like Racetrack Playa, Zabriskie Point, sand dunes, and the salt pan?*
We may see some such places on our excursion, though the Racetrack Playa will not be one of them: that is a bone-jarring drive to a remote area that would take a full day. Come without any specific location expectations; the exact itinerary is flexible and may have to be adjusted due to weather, closed roads, and who knows what else. Death Valley has so much to see that we predict you will not be disappointed.
I am confused about how we pay for the hotel. Is the hotel room part of the fee?

No, hotel rooms are not part of the course fee. You should call the Longstreet Hotel and Casino and make your reservation for January 18, 19, and 20. Indicate that you are with the trip sponsored by the Death Valley Natural History Association (DVNHA); the room codes are 51677 and 51678. There is no discount to the price, but we have a block of rooms reserved until December 18, a month before the program start date. If you are staying at the RV park across the street, no reservation is necessary.

What happens at the Orientation Meeting?

We will introduce ourselves to each other. Then we’ll discuss safety and plans for the trip. We hope to keep this meeting under an hour.

Is there cell phone service and internet at the Longstreet and in Death Valley?

WiFi and cell service are available at Longstreet, but cell phone service is rarely available in Death Valley, except near the Visitor Center.

What happens in case of an emergency while we are out and about?

We will have a satellite phone and the contact number for Death Valley emergency dispatch. Note that our satellite phone is for emergency use only. In these isolated locations, there are times when cell service is unavailable.

What to bring in the vehicles checklist:

• Light hiking boots or beefy athletic shoes for walking over rocky terrain
• Sun hat
• Canteen, water bottle, or Camelback pack, etc. with at least 2 liters of water. Note: we will also carry extra water in all vehicles for safety.
• Warm jacket
• Sunscreen
• Camera
• Small pack for water bottle and daily items
• Dark glasses (polaroids are best for geology)
• Personal items such as tissues, medicine, etc.
• No firearms or pets

Liability Disclaimer:

You must sign the legal disclaimer on the next page to participate in this trip. You can sign and bring this copy with you, or you can sign the disclaimer at the orientation meeting.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

Email dvi@dvnha.org or call 775-764-0726 and speak with the Death Valley Natural History Association Field Institute Director, Renee Rusler.
Assumption of Risk, Release of Liability & Indemnification Agreement

Participant Name: ___________________________ Print Name: ________________________ Date: ___/___/___   Date of Birth: ___/___/___

Tour Name: Death Valley Geology Discovery Tour   Date of Class: Jan 18-21, 2019

Initial: ___________________________ 1. I am aware that while participating in the class(s) identified above and related activities which are to be offered by the Death Valley Natural History Association (“DVNHA”) through its employees, agents and/or instructors, there are certain risks or dangers, whether known or unknown, which may be present due to various hazards. These hazards include, but are not limited to, narrow trails, lack of trails and, or rough terrain, high altitude, desert heat, wild animals or plants, illness or injury in areas remote from medical facilities, the forces of nature and acts of God, flash flood, and travel by bus or other conveyance. My participation in DVNHA’s class (s) or related activities is entirely voluntary. I am fully aware of the hazards described or referred to herein.

Initial: ___________________________ 2. I understand that the risk of injury or death may be minimized if I abide by the proper safety procedures. DVNHA’s instructors will instruct participants on safety procedures at the start of and during each class or other related activities. The possibility of injury or death should be minimized if all participants are attentive to what is occurring around them and abide by the recommended safety procedures. While risk of injury or death may be minimized, it can never be eliminated.

Initial: ___________________________ 3. In consideration of my right to participate in the class (s) identified above and related activities, I hereby release, waive and discharge DVNHA, its employees, agents, and/or instructors from any and all loss or damage, and claims or damages resulting there from, on account of any injury to my person or property, even injury resulting in death, whether caused by the negligence of DVNHA, its employees, agents, and/or instructors or otherwise which may arise in connection with my participation in the class (s) identified above or related activities, to the fullest extent possible under the law.

Initial: ___________________________ 4. I hereby assume full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, death, or property damage due to the negligence of DVNHA, its employees, agents, and/or instructors or otherwise which may arise in connections with my participation in the class (s) identified above or other related activities.

Initial: ___________________________ 5. I hereby agree to indemnify, hold forever harmless and defend DVNHA, its employees, agents and/or instructors against loss from any and all lawsuits, actions of any character, type or description, whether at law or in equity, brought or made for or on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by me, and agree to hold DVNHA, its employees, agents, and/or instructors harmless from all persons, firms or corporations who should bring any lawsuit or make claim against DVNHA, its employees, agents and/or instructors because of such injury or damages arising out of, attributed to, directly or indirectly, or occasioned by the negligent acts of any person, corporation, or other entity, including the negligent acts of DVNHA, its employees, agents, and/or instructors which may occur during my participation in the class (s) identified herein or related activities. This Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement includes claims for contribution and indemnity, for hospital expenses, drug expenses, doctor fees, nursing, therapy or convalescent fees, and/or attorney’s fees and/or claims made by or on behalf of the United States of America or any state or political subdivision hereof. I avow that I have health and/or accident insurance which have application to any injury or illness occasioned by me while participating in the class (s) described above or other related activities.

Initial: ___________________________ 6. I affirm that my general health is good and that I am not under a doctor’s care for any condition that will endanger my health or the health of other participants. In case of injury, illness, or death, I or my estate will bear the cost of any evacuation procedures utilizing and ambulance, helicopter, or rescue team and any type of related medical care. I affirm that I have adequate and applicable health and/or accident insurance which will cover the cost of reasonable and appropriate health care for any injury or illness I may experience while participating in the class (s) identified above or other related activities.

Initial: ___________________________ 7. I hereby consent that any photograph in which I appear may be used without compensation to me for purposes of publicity or advertising, such as catalogues, flyers, and news stories.

Initial: ___________________________ 8. I understand that I will not be permitted to participate in any class (s) or other related activities unless and until this agreement is properly executed.

Initial: ___________________________ 9. I expressly agree that this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, & Indemnification Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the United States of America and the State of California and/or the State of Nevada, and that if any portion of it is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall. Notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Initial: ___________________________ 10. I have carefully read this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, & Indemnification Agreement, and voluntarily sign the same. By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that it shall be effective and binding upon me, my family, heirs, next of kin, administrators, executors, representatives, and my estate.

Signature: ___________________________ Print Name: ________________________ Date: ___/___/___   Date of Birth: ___/___/___

Unless otherwise instructed please bring completed form to the first day of class.