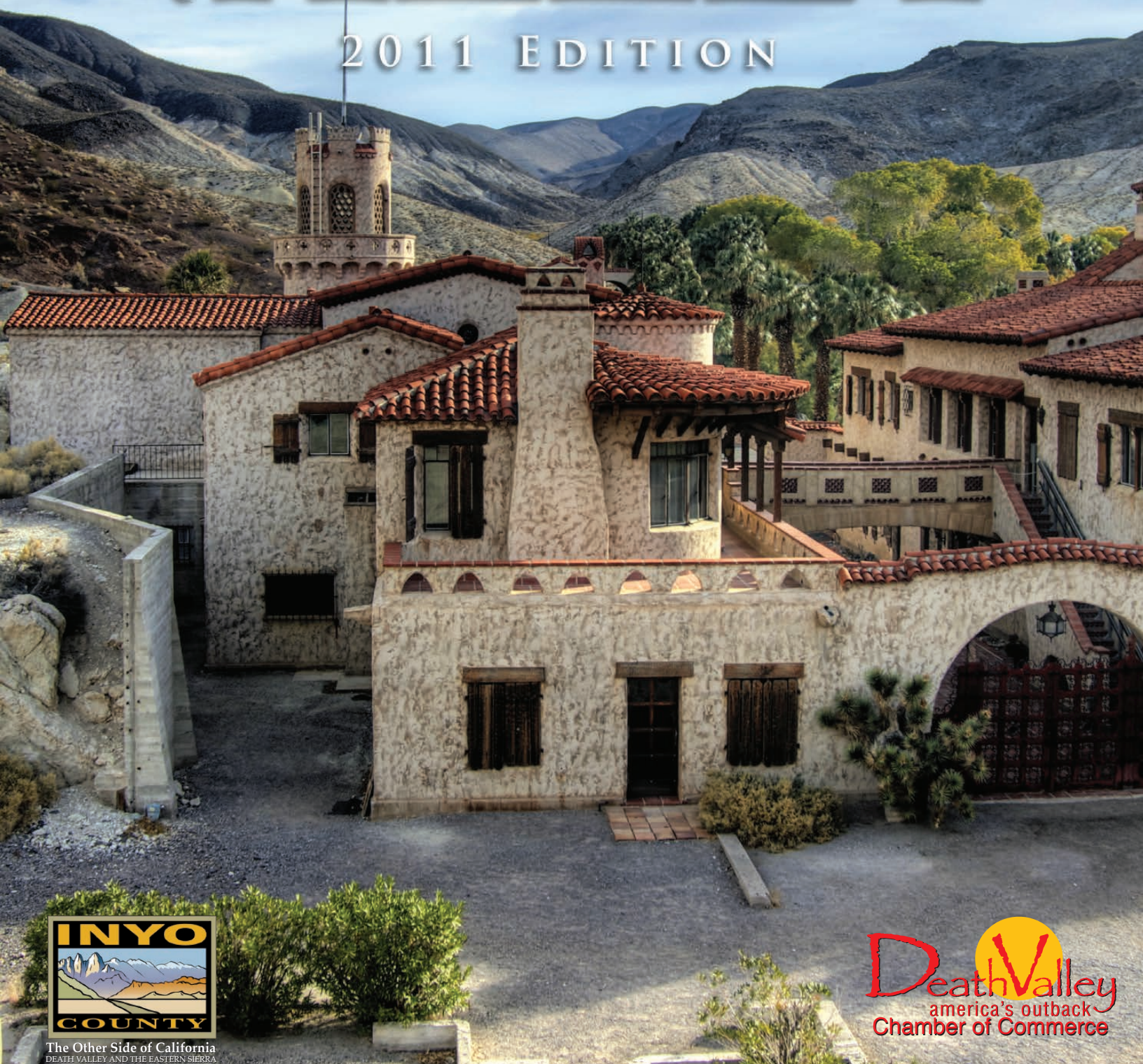


A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO DEATH VALLEY

2011 EDITION



The Other Side of California
DEATH VALLEY AND THE EASTERN SIERRA

Death Valley
america's outback
Chamber of Commerce

To
Lone Pine
& Bishop

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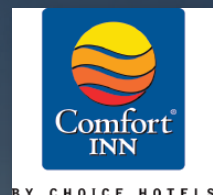
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2011 VISITORS GUIDE

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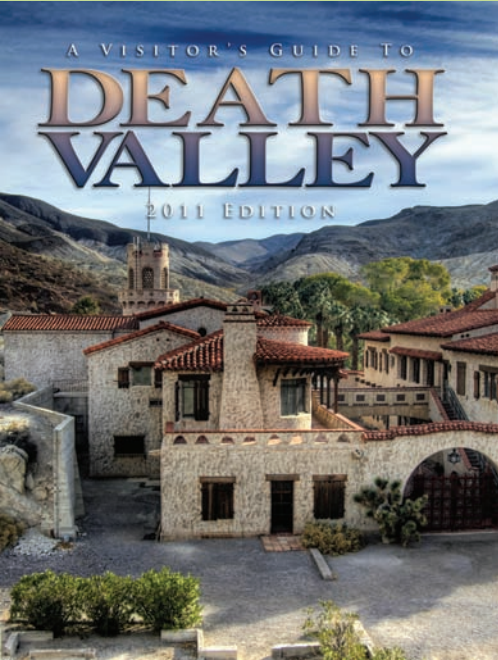
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OUR COVER

Scotty's Castle

Our Cover features Death Valley's famed Scotty's Castle, a seeming mirage built in the 1920s in the style of Spanish architecture. The famous Death Valley Scotty told many tall tales here. Wealthy Chicago businessman Albert Johnson, who funded construction of the Castle, took a liking to the old "prospector" and his stories, and built him a room of his own where his trademark red neckties still hang. Scotty's Castle is not a "castle" in the usual sense of the word: it simply must be seen to be believed.

Tours lasting approximately 50 minutes of the main house are conducted daily 365 days a year.



DEATH VALLEY

Each year Death Valley welcomes over a million American and International visitors who marvel at this, the nation's largest National Park in the lower 48 states.

Travelers are greeted with sweeping views and sun drenched landscapes, the sheer scope of Death Valley's spectacular natural wonders will amaze and amaze vacationers! When sun sets, the

traveler is presented with an incredibly brilliant night sky featuring our own Milky Way.

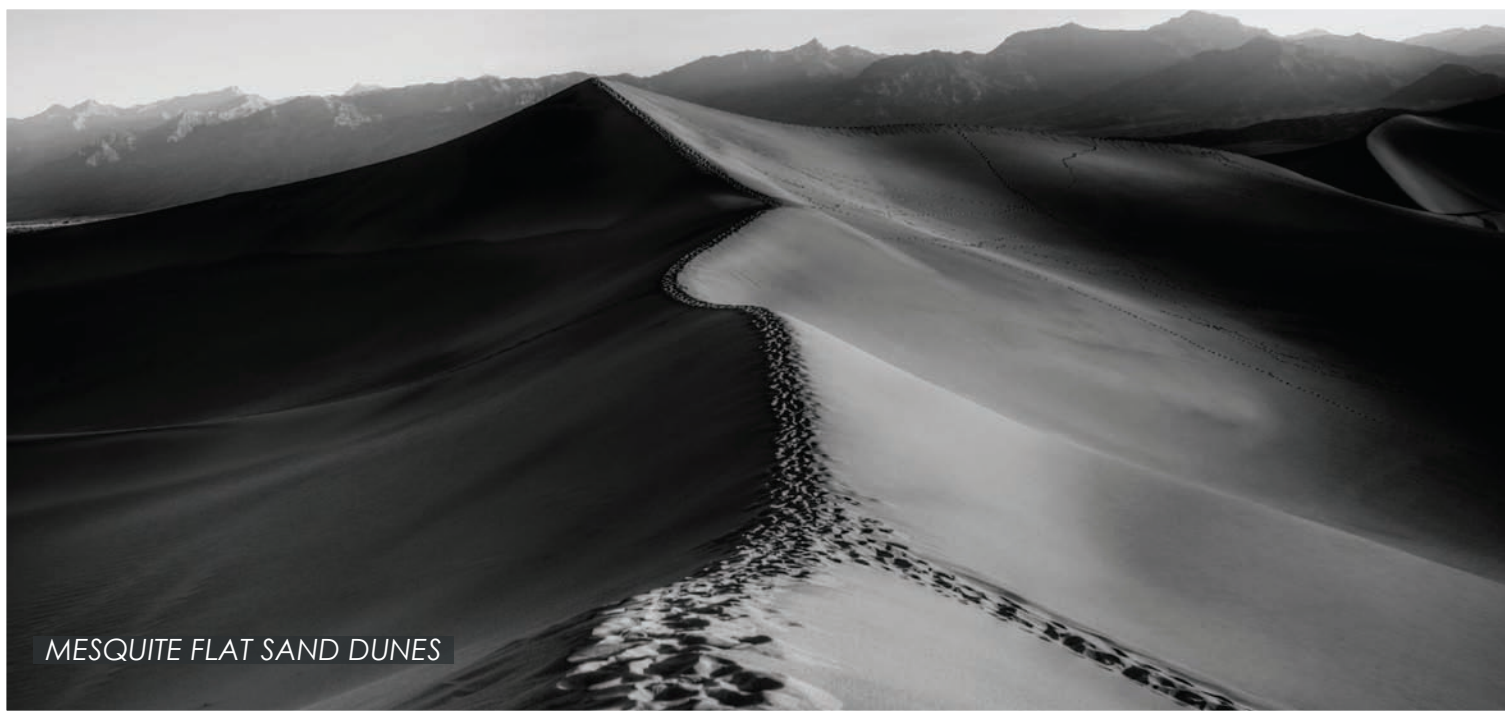
Explore Death Valley and the surprising oasis communities that surround it. Just west of the park border you will find the Mt Whitney (Elevation 14,494') the highest mountain in the continental United States and on the east the thriving Pahrump Valley Winery.



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TECOPA HOT SPRINGS

China Ranch/Amargosa Canyon

Five miles south from Shoshone heading towards Baker you will want to take the turn off and travel another 3 miles to visit Tecopa Hot Springs. Originally named Yaga, Tecopa Hot Springs boasted the largest Native settlement in the region because of its several natural advantages: natural hot springs, abundant wildlife and fertile wetlands, and proximity to a series of trading routes later known as The Old Spanish Trail. These advantages soon attracted an increasing number of hard-rock mining communities, requiring the efforts of Paiute Pakwinavi Tecopa to negotiate a peace in which all parties could share in the use and enjoyment of the hot springs.

In 1908, spurred by the mining boom, the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad built the Tecopa station, whose span runs through the spectacular Amargosa Canyon.

Today's visitor can marvel at the same beauty that caught the eye of yesterday's miner:



desert landscapes, vivid sunsets, and healing mineral waters. In spring and fall, vast flocks of migratory birds avail themselves of the marshes and the surrounding canyons, and particularly of Grimshaw Lake, a protected wetland and a great birding locale. Admire the spring wildflowers, bicycle along the many scenic trails, get a birds-eye view while gliding through the crisp desert air, or hike in the Kingstons, Tecopa, Ibex, or Sheepshead mountains and wilderness



areas: whatever your pursuit, active or contemplative, Tecopa Hot Springs affords the leisure.

Perhaps most unique about Tecopa are the reported healing qualities of the hot mineral water and local clay. Many people report that soaking in these silky waters releases and melts away aches and pain. Tecopa Hot Springs Massage offers healing work utilizing a personalized variety of healing modalities (www.tecopahot springsmassage.com)

Accommodations include lodging and camping and a variety of hot springing options at the Tecopa Hot Springs Resort (www.tecopahot springs.org) Delights Hot Springs Resort (www.delightshot springsresort.com) Petersen's Tecopa Palms RV Park and the County run campground and pools; the Inyo

County campground, with separate bathhouses for men and women; and the Poo-Ha-Bah Native Healing Center (www.poohabah.org). Amenities there are to suit the visitor's needs and

wishes: dine at the extraordinary Pastels Bistro, a variety of small shops, a post office, an international hostel, massage services, and the Tecopa Artist Gallery to

Continued on page 8



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Continued from page 7
satisfy the artist's palette.

Just a few miles from Tecopa
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CHINA RANCH DATE ORCHARD

ing as its origins. Antonio Armijo,
the first European visitor to the
area, found it already inhabited
by Shoshone and Paiute Indians
when he arrived in 1830. The trail
he established, known as the Old
Spanish Trail, was a main thor-
oughfare at the time for raiders,
traders, and settlers; it remains
passable today and is easily ac-
cessible from the Ranch.

Guided tours of the area ac-
centuate the excitement with an
educational excursion on geol-
ogy, botany, birds, and the his-
tory of early man in the environs.
Before setting out on trail or tour,
or after a good day's hike, enjoy
the Ranch's homegrown dates,
date nut breads, or muffins and
cookies. And for a memento
of your visit, browse our shop of
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An easy hike about 1 1/4

miles west of the China Ranch
Bakery and Gift Shop brings
you to the old T & you arrive at
Amargosa River Canyon, voted
by Congress in 2009 America's
first Wild and Scenic River in the

desert. The spectacular Amargo-
sa Canyon was carved between
one half to one million years
ago, when water escaped from
Lake Tecopa to sculpt the scenic
ravine. The river that shares the

Amargosa name has sustained
periodic human habitations for
8,000 years. So productive are
its life-sustaining waters that the
River Valley serves as a refuge for
an abundance of wildlife, some
of which is protected under the
Endangered Species Act. Even as the
Amargosa River was a lifeline
of nourishment for settlers and
visitors, so was the Old Span-
ish Trail which runs beside it a
lifeline, from 1830 to 1850, of
trade and passage between
Sante Fe, New Mexico, and the
area of Los Angeles, California.
Its location and situation made
the Amargosa Canyon a critical
supply depot along the Tonopah
and Tidewater Railroad - yet
another lifeline of the area, this
used to haul mine ore.



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ZABRISKIE POINT

SHOSHONE

Shoshone is an oasis on the edge of Death Valley

Since the turn of the century it has been known as a welcome destination for visitors to the region. In 1910 "Dad" Fairbanks established a boarding house and a store in Shoshone for the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad, newly built by Borax Smith to transport borax from the nearby mines to the markets. The town quickly became a thriving hub of commerce and social life for the surrounding area.

Prospectors and others, who were arriving daily, could buy their supplies before setting out to stake their claim in Death Valley an area that was highly mineralized.

One hopeful prospector attracted another

be a hub of commerce and social life for visitors and residents alike. It is an ideal location as a base camp while exploring the beauty of the Amargosa and Death Valley regions. The terrain surrounding Shoshone often has been called "world class geology".

The Resting Springs range to the east of Sho-



SHOSHONE

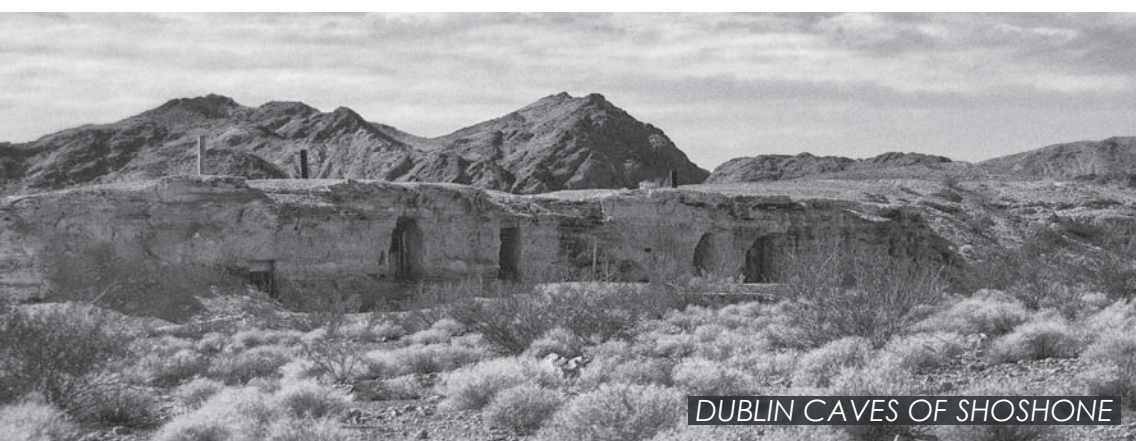
shone is strikingly beautiful because of its brightly colored stripes of red, pink, blue, tan and green and the Nopahs, consisting of Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian rocks, contain some of the oldest forms of life on the planet.

The Ibex Hills to the west, composed of volcanic and metamorphic rock are a brilliant jumble of red, pink, tan and charcoal

formations. All of these mountain ranges contain perennial springs they are inhabited by bighorn sheep, kit foxes, bobcats, golden eagles and

and before long many called Shoshone their home.

Over the years Shoshone has continued to



DUBLIN CAVES OF SHOSHONE

prairie falcons.

The Amargosa River, often called the crown jewel of the Mojave Desert, is also breath-

Bells Vireo. Birds listed by California as Species of Special Concern such as the Yellow Warbler, the Yellow breasted Chat, the



AMARGOSA RIVER IN SHOSHONE

taking feature of the Amargosa and Death Valley terrain. It flows through Shoshone as it makes its way from Beatty, Nevada to the floor of Death Valley. During its journey it meanders underground popping up sporadically to form spectacular oasis supporting a rich variety of plant and animal life, as it does in Shoshone. Since these oasis are isolated from one another each provides unique habitats for species found nowhere else in the world.

Since Shoshone is one of these oasis it is a haven for birds and is home to several endangered species such as the

Vermillion Flycatcher and the Virginia Warbler also make Shoshone their home during migration.



CROWBAR CAFE

Shoshone Village is a perfect place to stay while exploring the natural beauty of the sur-

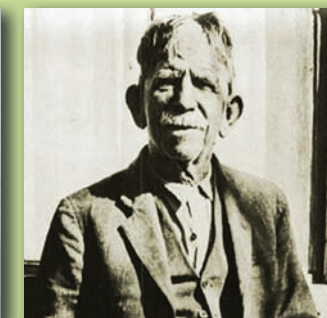
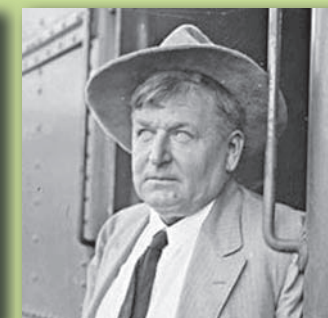
rounding area. It offers all the and comforts and conveniences needed by the traveler. The Shoshone Inn is a cozy place to stay for a night, a week or a month since the accommodations include rooms with kitchenettes and a historical bungalow called the Whiffletree. Wireless internet is provided for our guests. The Inn also offers a relaxing and therapeutic natural warm spring pool.

Across the street is the historic Crowbar Cafe and Saloon. The restaurant was built in the late 1930s and still serves handcrafted cuisine in a traditional Western atmosphere. The adjoining

saloon was added in the 1950's and since that time has become

Continued on page 14

Famous Adventurers and Mining Promoters of the Death Valley and Amargosa Region



One hopeful prospector attracted another and before long many of the famous adventures and mining promoters who went to Death Valley, such as (left to right) Sir Harry Oakes, Death Valley Scoty, Shorty Harris and Siberian Red called Shoshone their home.

Continued from page 13
famous as a meeting place
for locals and visitors alike. Just
down the road from the Crow-

eclectic setting. Just next door is
the Shoshone Eco Tourism.
As the visitor strolls back to
the Shoshone Inn he will find the

tive American jewelry, gifts, gas,
propane, lotto tickets and much
more. The RV Park also located
in the Village offers 26 full hook-
ups sites and additional tent or
dry RV sites. There are also hot
showers and laundry facilities
available. The additional public
services located in the Village
are the Death Valley Health
Clinic, the Death Valley Unified
School District, the US Post Of-
fice, a Sheriff's substation, the
Amargosa Conservancy and the
Shoshone Museum. These are
just some of the amenities found
in Shoshone Village.

Shoshone Village, where the
adventure begins! Come visit us!



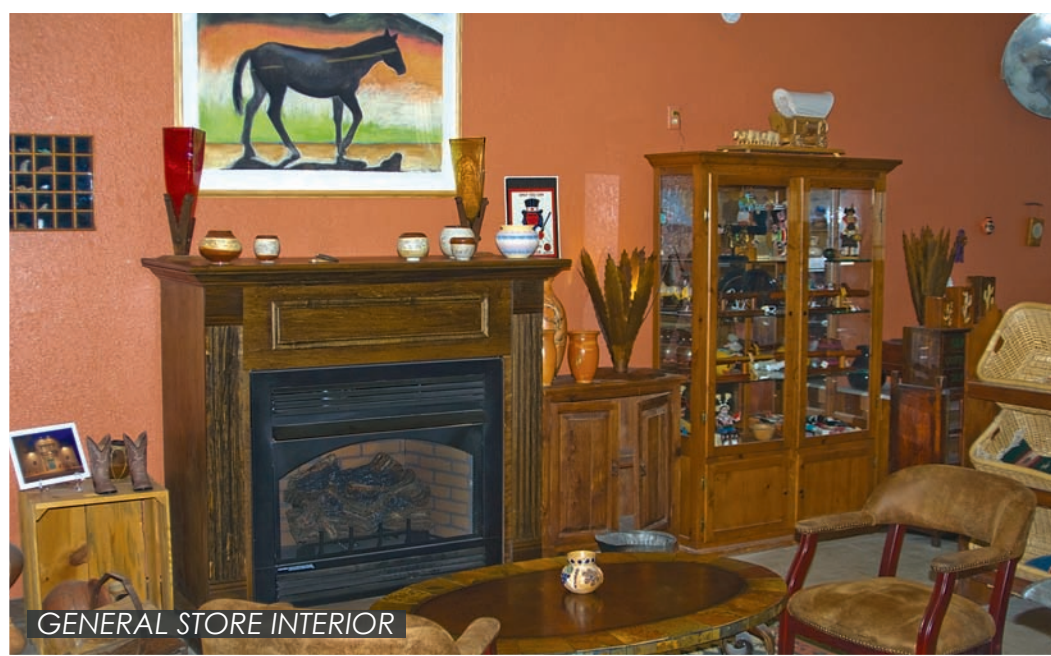
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EDUCATION

Death Valley Natural History Association

The Death Valley Natural History Association is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the natural and cultural history of the Death Valley area in cooperation with our government partners.

For anyone who comes into the Furnace Creek Visitor Center, the bookstore in the lobby looks a lot like most other retail stores you might find in a National Park. But if you look close you will find some important differences.

First there are no shot glasses or scorpion paperweights. Second, everything in the store helps to educate you about Death Valley National Park from the books to t-shirts every item we sell is approved by the Park Service for its educational value before we can sell it and last but not least every dollar spent in our stores stays in the park to help support education, interpretation, and scientific programs in the park. In the 1930's the San Jose State University's Field Studies Program began their annual spring visits to Death Valley National Monument. By the early 1950's the acute lack of educational materials available for the classes caused the students and

faculty to form an organization to produce those much needed publications. On May 12, 1954 the National Park Service officially designated the Death Valley Natural History Association as a cooperating association.

Since 1954 the Death Valley Natural History Association has given more than two million dollars in aid back to Death Valley National Park. We have published a number of books and other items that you can find in any of our four bookstores. We have worked diligently to support park programs. Like the All Taxa Biological Inventory, a program to catalog every living creature in the park so that resource decisions can be made with the most up to date science available, internships throughout the park to assist with visitor services and curatorial programs. Death Valley ROCKS (Recreation Outdoors Campaign for Kids thru Study) brings kids from the Los Angeles and Las Vegas areas for an overnight outdoor educational experience. For most of these kids it is the first time they have ever seen the stars of the night sky or slept in a tent.

For more information on how you can help call us at 800-478-8564 or www.dvnha.org.



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All proceeds go to the Death Valley National Park region.



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ENTERING DEATH VALLEY

Gateways into Death Valley National Park

There are seven paved road entrances into Death Valley National Park, each from a different point on the compass: from the west Lone Pine and Olancha; the south Ridgecrest; the east Shoshone, Death Valley junction via Pahrump, NV and Las Vegas; and from the north Beatty and Scotty's Junction.

On Highway 395 you will find the perfect gateway to Death Valley National Park, **Lone Pine, California**.

A day or two in **Lone Pine** is the best way to begin your visit to Death Valley National Park. Tucked snugly at the base of Mt. Whitney, Lone Pine is located in the southern Owens Valley. With many places to stay and eat, the town has much to offer the casual visitor, before challenging Death Valley National Park

The Alabama Hills, located a few miles west on Whitney Portal road is both a photographer's dream location and an attraction for film buffs who want to see where John Wayne worked eleven times, where Humphrey Bogart faced death in High Sierra and where recently both Ironman and Transformers strode the sand and boulders. Fully 400 movies shot scenes there in the famous rocks. Be sure to schedule time at the Beverly and Jim Rogers Museum of Lone Pine Film History which has an

excellent 15 minute orientation film on the history of movie making locally.

A must excursion is to take the Whitney Portal Road up to 8300 feet and the trailheads into the High Sierra. Once there, you are still nearly 6200 feet below Mt. Whitney, the highest mountain in the continental US.

On your return trip down the Whitney Portal



Road you will be offered a spectacular view of the Owens Valley and the Coso Mountains .

To enter Death Valley turn west off of Highway 395 on to Hwy 136, at the southwest corner of the intersection you will find the Interagency Visitor's Center and its a great place to start your adventure. The friendly rangers there can fill you in on what there is to see in the region and the conditions that await you in Death Valley National Park.

Olancha, California is 22 miles south on highway 395 from Lone Pine and the other western entrance to Death Valley National Park. Olancha has an approximate population of 200 citizens, and is home to a few of restaurants which serves motorist exploring Highway 395. Local attractions include: Olancha Sand Dunes, the Sierra Nevada streams and backcountry meadows.

For more than a century ranchers have driven sheep and cattle into the Sierra Nevada Range and nearby Monache Meadows for summer range for their cattle, and large cattle drives still are the norm today

Crystal Geyser water bottling company calls Olancha home along with Anheiser-Busch Brewing Company who pumps well

water from its own property.

To enter Death Valley National Park from Olancha exit Highway 395 at Highway 190. Highway 136 from Lone Pine ends on Hwy 190. Highway 190 travels across Death Valley and ends at Death Valley Junction

Ridgecrest, California is the southern entrance to Death Valley National Park and is located just off Hwy 395 and west of the

Sierra Nevada range on Highway 178.

Ridgecrest boasts of more than a dozen hotels and enjoys the fare of 50 restaurants. The U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology at China Lake, free and open to the public Mondays through Saturdays, displays actual missiles, rockets and other armaments developed

Continued on Page 18



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Continued from Page 17
and/or tested at China Lake.
Balsam Street has gift shops and West Ridgecrest Boulevard delights residents and tourists alike with books, antiques, collectibles, consignment finds and My Enchanted Cottage & Tea Rooms.
In addition to its art gallery, the Maturango Museum holds special events such as Octo-



INDIAN PAINTBRUSH

ber's Open Studio Tours when local artists join forces for an unparalleled invitation to meet them in their studios. In April, the museum's annual indoor wildflower show complements the arts, crafts, performers, floral bonanza and guided tours of the Ridgecrest Desert Wildflower Festival. If favored with the right weather conditions the preceding winter, the canyons and foothills burst with color in the spring from the Indian Wells Canyon to (traveling north) Short Canyon, Grapevine Canyon, Sand Canyon and 9-Mile Canyon.
To enter Death Valley National Park take Highway 178 east, this will take you through China Lake Naval Weapons Center, the city of Trona and on into Death Valley.
The northern most entrance

into Death Valley is at **Scotty's Junction**, Nevada, located where Highways 95 and 267 meet. It is just 26 miles from the junction to Scotty's Castle.
The other northern entrance to Death Valley is **Beatty**, Nevada, it's 35 miles south of Scotty's Junction on Highway 95.
Leave Beatty on Highway 374 and just 7 miles away is the entrance to Death Valley National Park border and 40 minutes from Furnace Creek.
This small rural community has everything the desert visitor needs, with over 340 rooms and 108 RV sites, all at reasonable prices.
Nestled at the end of Oasis Valley, and near the head of the Amargosa River, Beatty is a welcome respite from the surrounding desert for human and animal alike, making Beatty a prime birding and wildlife viewing area.
Beatty offers nearly endless opportunities, including miles of roads that meander through the Bullfrog Mining District and into Death Valley, for those with high-clearance and four-wheel drive.
For those looking for a more cultured experience, Beatty offers a fine museum, unique antique shops, eclectic gift shops, an art gallery, casino, restaurants, and is home to Bailey's Hot Springs where you can soak your worries away.
Travelers on Interstate highway 15 will exit at Baker and travel north on highway 127 to **Shoshone** (see Shoshone on page 12). Less than a mile north of Shoshone one turns left on highway 178 which will eventu-

ally end at Badwater Road.
Visitors wishing not to enter Death Valley at Shoshone will continue north to **Death Valley Junction** and enter Death Valley National Park on highway 190. Most travelers entering through Death Valley Junction have traveled through Pahrump, Nevada from Las Vegas.
In **Pahrump** stop and visit
Continued on Page 20

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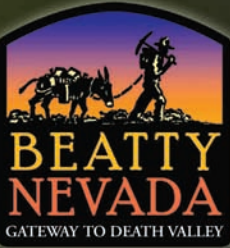
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Continued from Page 19
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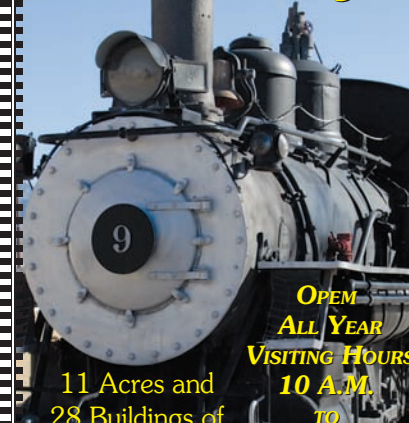
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