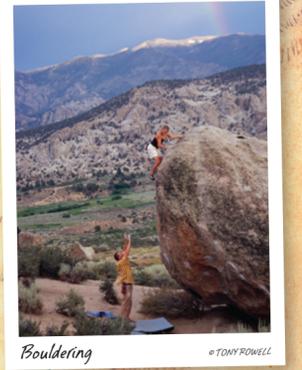
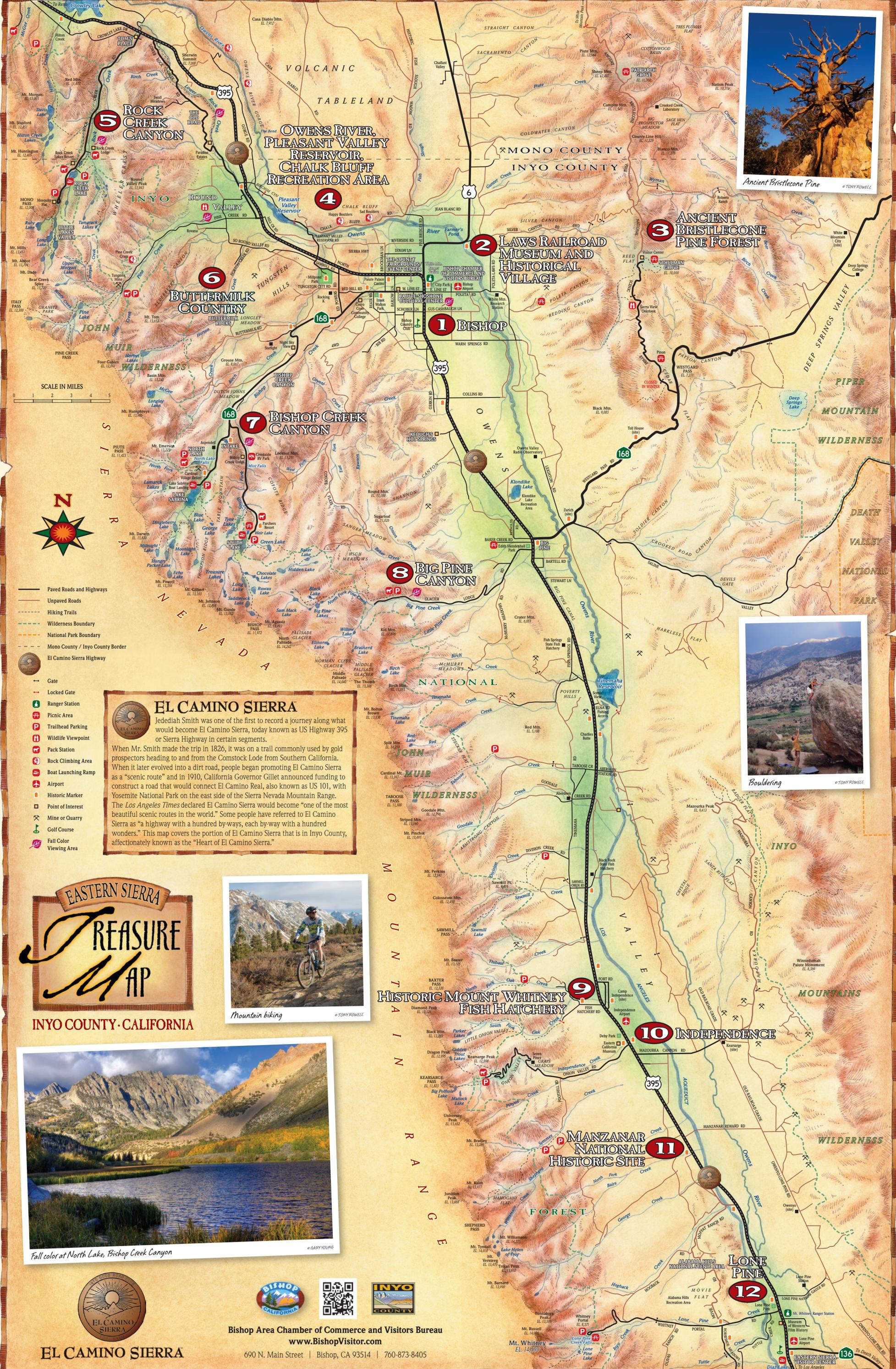


Ancient Bristlecone Pine © TONY POWELL



Bouldering © TONY POWELL

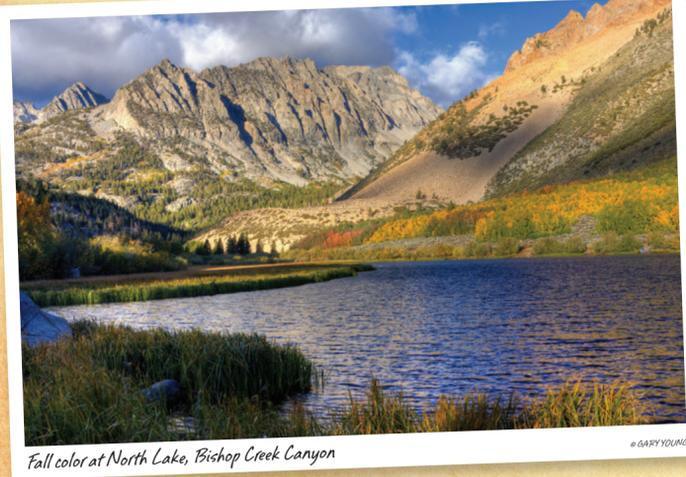


**EL CAMINO SIERRA**  
 Jedediah Smith was one of the first to record a journey along what would become El Camino Sierra, today known as US Highway 395 or Sierra Highway in certain segments.  
 When Mr. Smith made the trip in 1826, it was on a trail commonly used by gold prospectors heading to and from the Comstock Lode from Southern California. When it later evolved into a dirt road, people began promoting El Camino Sierra as a "scenic route" and in 1910, California Governor Gillet announced funding to construct a road that would connect El Camino Real, also known as US 101, with Yosemite National Park on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The *Los Angeles Times* declared El Camino Sierra would become "one of the most beautiful scenic routes in the world." Some people have referred to El Camino Sierra as "a highway with a hundred by-ways, each by-way with a hundred wonders." This map covers the portion of El Camino Sierra that is in Inyo County, affectionately known as the "Heart of El Camino Sierra."

**EASTERN SIERRA TREASURE MAP**  
 INYO COUNTY · CALIFORNIA



Mountain biking © TONY POWELL



Fall color at North Lake, Bishop Creek Canyon © GARY YOUNG

## 1 BISHOP

Bishop's official slogan is "Small Town with a Big Backyard." It's fitting, because while Bishop is the biggest city in the region, it still retains genuine old-fashioned charm and friendliness—a great place to call home while you explore the Eastern Sierra. Bishop offers an excellent selection of lodging, camping, dining and retail options. Bishop has many boutiques and specialty shops, sporting goods, antiques, art and more. A series of colorful murals adorn downtown buildings, depicting the region's unique history—mining, agriculture, mule packing and western traditions. Stop at the **Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau** for maps, brochures, souvenirs and friendly, knowledgeable advice (690 N. Main Street). The **Bishop City Park** is truly a treasure! Dozens of tree species in the arboretum provide wonderful shade for picnicking or just relaxing on the grass. The park offers something for everyone—a swimming pool, tennis courts, baseball and soccer fields, a bike/skate park, playground equipment, outdoor gym and sand volleyball courts. There is even an area for your furry friends—**Bishop's Dog Park** is popular with locals and visitors alike. The **Bishop Country Club** is a challenging 18-hole golf course with amazing mountain views. The **Paiute Palace Casino** offers 24-hour gaming, live entertainment, a full bar and restaurant. The **Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center** features Native American exhibits and prehistoric artifacts from the region. The historic **Keough's Hot Springs** (est. 1919) is a free flowing mineral hot springs located about 7 miles south of Bishop, just off US Highway 395. The swimming pool is 86° to 90° and the shallow soaking pool is 104°—the perfect place to relax after a day of hiking, climbing or skiing! The facility is open year-round.



Laws Railroad Museum © RON NICKERSON / LAWS MUSEUM

## 2 LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM AND HISTORIC VILLAGE

Eleven acres and 30 buildings of indoor and outdoor exhibits transport you back to the pioneer days. Climb aboard Steam Engine #9 and ring the bell, step into the original depot and the agent's house, visit the 1909 school house and more. The museum is open year-round daily from 10 am to 4 pm.

## 3 ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST

Schulman Grove is home to the world's oldest known specimens of bristlecone pine; some are more than 4,000 years old! The secret to longevity is its adaptation to this unique environment high up in the White Mountains. The Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest is about 45 minutes from the town of **Big Pine**; take Highway 168 east 13 miles to White Mountain Road, turn left and drive 10 miles to the parking area. At Schulman Grove, you'll find a visitor center, picnic area and loop trails for hiking: Discovery Trail is one mile and Methuselah Trail is a 4.5 mile round trip. The cost is \$3 per adult or \$6 maximum per vehicle. Children under 18 are free. It is open from mid-May through the end of November, weather permitting. On your way to or from Schulman Grove, be sure to stop at **Sierra View Overlook** (about 2.5 miles below the visitor center). A short path around a knobby hill next to the parking lot brings you to an observation point with a breathtaking view encompassing 10 miles of the Sierra Range.



Sierra wave clouds © ED NAHIN

## 4 OWENS RIVER, PLEASANT VALLEY RESERVOIR, CHALK BLUFF RECREATION AREA

For great year-round fishing or a fun family outing, head north eight miles on US Highway 395 to the Pleasant Valley Reservoir turnoff, and then loop back toward Bishop following Chalk Bluff Road (well-graded dirt road). Here, the Owens River winds lazily, its lush banks shading many a favorite fishing hole. The **Volcanic Tableland**, along the north edge of Chalk Bluff Road, formed 750,000 years ago by enormous eruptions of glowing volcanic ash. Today, the Tableland and Chalk Bluff offer abundant treasures—exploring, hiking, birding, photography and bouldering. The **Happy and Sad Boulders** have become popular with boulderers from around the globe. The Owens River runs along the base of the Tableland and is open year-round for trout fishing. A certain section of the river is designated as a **Wild Trout Area** and has special fishing regulations.

## 5 ROCK CREEK CANYON AREA

Truly a four-season treasure! From Bishop, drive about 25 miles north on US Highway 395, then turn off at **Tom's Place Resort**. In summer months enjoy camping, fishing and hiking. Fall is a popular time to visit when photographers marvel at the red, gold and orange aspen groves. In winter, the area is popular with cross-country skiers and snowmobilers. There are several USFS campgrounds, cabin rentals and other great services at **Rock Creek Lakes Resort** and **Rock Creek Lodge**. Looking for a great scenic drive? Just below Tom's Place, take **Lower Rock Creek Road** (it's the old US Highway 395). You'll wind through stands of aspens, studded with gigantic Jeffrey pine. It's a popular route for mountain bikers, so please remember to share the road. As you descend into **Round Valley**, you'll see lush meadows, cottonwood trees and many ranches sitting peacefully at the base of majestic Mount Tom.



Wild iris in Round Valley, just north of Bishop © TONY POWELL

## 6 BUTTERMILK COUNTRY

This rising upland of meadows and boulder fields lies beneath Mount Tom and Basin Mountain. Named for the dairy farms that once drew stagecoach travelers for a refreshing drink of buttermilk, this area is now famous for exploring and climbing the weathered granite rock formations and giant, solitary boulders. From Bishop, drive west on Line Street (Highway 168) for about seven miles, then turn right onto Buttermilk Road (well graded dirt road). You can stop anywhere along the way, but the largest boulders are about three miles from the Buttermilk Road entrance.

## 7 BISHOP CREEK CANYON

From downtown Bishop, follow Line Street (Highway 168) west about 15 miles. You will climb into the mountains from the valley floor to elevations over 9,000 feet on a well maintained highway. In summer months, locals and visitors enjoy trout fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding and just relaxing in the cool mountain air. Popular locations include South Lake, North Lake, Lake Sabrina, the historic Rainbow Pack Station and Cardinal Gold Mine. The canyon is a real find in autumn, with blazing colors igniting the landscape. There are dozens of USFS campsites and great picnic locations. Several resorts including **Parchers**, **Bishop Creek Lodge**, **Creekside RV**, **Cardinal Village** and **Aspendell Cabins** offer cabin rentals, camping, dining and general stores to stock up. Boat rentals are available at **South Lake Boat Landing** and **Lake Sabrina Boat Landing**.



Palisade Glacier © TOM GRUNDY / SHUTTERSTOCK

## 8 BIG PINE CANYON

High above Big Pine Creek is the **Palisade Glacier**, the southernmost permanent glacier in North America. It is accessible by foot and horseback from the **Glacier Lodge Trailhead**. Big Pine Canyon is popular spring through fall and recreational opportunities include camping, fishing, hiking, photography, horseback riding, bird watching and wildlife viewing.

## 9 HISTORIC MOUNT WHITNEY FISH HATCHERY

A structural marvel built to "match the mountains, last forever, and be a showplace for all time," this 1917 hatchery is a beautiful and unique building with hand-laid stone walls and hand-hewn timbers. The shady grounds and main pond are excellent for relaxing, picnicking and fish viewing. Kids of all ages love to get trout food from the coin operated dispenser and watch the feeding frenzy! There is a nice gift shop and displays featuring many species of Eastern Sierra Wildlife. Volunteers have done much to restore the facility following devastation by fire and flood several years ago. Volunteers now serve as caretakers and give tours inside the hatchery. Access is just off US Highway 395 about two miles north of Independence. Open year-round. Grounds open daily. Gift Shop and hatchery tours Thursday through Monday (summer) and Friday through Sunday (winter).



Historic Mount Whitney Fish Hatchery © INVO COUNTRY



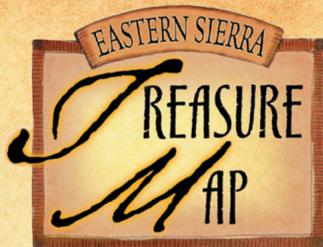
Independence Court House © TOM WILNER

## 10 INDEPENDENCE

Our county seat is home to the **Historic Courthouse** (1921), designed by famed architect William H. Weeks. Take a walking tour to see many historic buildings including the 1872 Commander's House (corner of US Highway 395 & Main Street), the 1863 Edwards House which is the oldest building in the Owens Valley (124 Market Street), and the Mary Austin House (253 Market Street). The museum is open daily year-round and houses a unique and eclectic mix of artifacts and photos. The exhibits highlight the Owens Valley's rich history including agriculture, mining, recreation, water, Manzanar and more. One of the museum's greatest treasures is the largest collection of Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone and Death Valley Panamint-Shoshone basketry in the country. Just outside the museum, you'll find the Mary DeDecker Native Plant Garden. In the Sierra above Independence, **Onion Valley** is very popular in summer months for camping, fishing, backpacking and day hiking. From Independence, turn west on Market Street and continue for about 15 miles—you'll climb to an elevation of 9,600 ft. and the views below are endless. The road is paved, a bit windy, but well maintained and usually open May through November depending on snow conditions.

Welcome to the Eastern Sierra—land of endless treasure and remarkable wonder! This Treasure Map highlights many outdoor venues you can savor and experience. Known as "The Other Side of California," this region is world-renowned for its beauty, scenery, and solitude. You can spend a lifetime hunting down many riches the area offers.

With this map, you'll discover geographic features and many fascinating points of interest located in east-central California. They include attractions in Death Valley National Park and the Eastern Sierra area where continental US Highway 395 threads up "The Deepest Valley" of North America. This side of the map descriptively highlights many notable features and landmarks throughout this vast area. From world-class mountainscape treasures to multi-faceted gems of history, this map presents diverse, unique and exciting adventures for you, your family and friends.



## 11 MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Manzanar War Relocation Center was one of ten camps where Japanese American Citizens were interned during World War II. Approximately 10,000 people lived here from 1942-1945. Today, the Manzanar Interpretive Center features extensive exhibits, a scale model of the camp and an award-winning documentary film shown every 30 minutes. Several barracks and other buildings have recently been reconstructed and visitors are encouraged to tour the entire site to see the historic orchards, rock gardens and cemetery. Manzanar is open daily year-round. Admission is free and the National Park Service regularly offers ranger led programs.

## 12 LONE PINE

This frontier town sits in the shadow of majestic **Mount Whitney**, the highest peak in the contiguous US at 14,500 feet. Hiking to the top requires a US Forest Service permit ([www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)). Even if you don't hike the trail, a drive up to **Whitney Portal**, 12 miles west of downtown, is highly recommended in summer months. It's a popular place for camping, picnicking, fishing, wildlife viewing and just general relaxation with amazing views. The general store serves great burgers and pizza size pancakes just steps away from a cascading waterfall and glistening trout pond. Lone Pine is known as Hollywood's "back lot." Since the 1920s, hundreds of movies, especially westerns and sci-fi thrillers, have been filmed in the region. Be sure to visit the **Lone Pine Museum of Western Film History** to see props, costumes and a great collection of movie memorabilia. Take a drive along **Movie Flat Road** to explore the weathered granite boulders and arches in the **Alabama Hills National Scenic Area**. Lone Pine is also known as the gateway to Death Valley and the town has a good selection of lodging, dining and retail shops. The **Eastern Sierra Visitor Center** (one mile south of Lone Pine at the intersection of US Highway 395 & State Route 136) is staffed by friendly, knowledgeable people and features informative displays and a good selection of maps, books and souvenirs. Wilderness permits and passes may also be picked up there, open daily year-round.



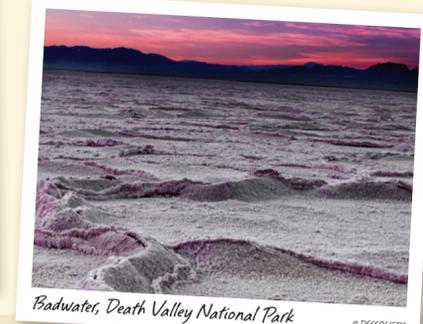
Alabama Arch © TONY POWELL



Zabriskie Point, Death Valley National Park © GARY YOUNG

## 13 DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

It's the hottest, driest and lowest—this is the land of extremes! Vast and hulking mountain ranges frosted with winter snow tower over the valley floor; Telescope Peak is 11,049' and Badwater is 282' below sea-level. The steady drought and record summer temperatures create a unique and strikingly beautiful environment. On the northern end of the valley, **Ubehebe Crater** and **Scotty's Castle** are popular destinations. In the center of the park, **Furnace Creek** offers lodging, camping, dining, golf and more. The **Furnace Creek Visitor Center** offers great educational exhibits, expert advice and ranger-led programs. **Stovepipe Wells Village** is another good option for lodging and camping, located near the **Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes**. There are several "must see to believe" places in Death Valley, including **Zabriskie Point**, **Artist's Drive**, **Golden Canyon** and the **Amargosa Opera House**. At the south-east edge of Death Valley, you'll find **Shoshone Village**, a popular stop for artists, photographers and geology buffs.



Badwater, Death Valley National Park © DESOILLERS

