

## Death Valley National Park

March 8-13, 2020

**TOUR RATING: EASY (1-3 miles of hiking per day on uneven terrain and gravel/dirt trails)**

Explore the diverse sights in Death Valley as you travel in the company of your on-tour expert. In addition to visiting the beautiful canyons, panoramic vistas and more within the park, you'll learn about the dramatic geology and remarkably hardy flora and fauna. A very unique species in the region is the pup fish which are endemic to the area. We will search for a few of the subspecies that live in Death Valley as well as neighboring Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Beyond each day's exploration of the park we will get out in the evenings to gaze at some of the darkest skies in the country allowing for top-notch stargazing.

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Panoramic views stretching from over 11,000 feet to 282 feet below sea level
- Sand Dunes reaching over 100 feet
- One of three International Dark Sky Parks in the National Park System
- Home to endemic pup-fish species

Questions?

Call Black Sheep Adventures at 866-647-4337  
or Spartan Pathways Travel at 888-697-2863

<http://alumni.msu.edu/travel>



BLACK  
SHEEP  
ADVENTURES

HIKE. BIKE. RAIL. TRAVEL EWEPHORIA.

DAY  
1

## Arrive into Las Vegas, NV

Arrive in time for a welcome orientation this evening before a group dinner together to get you ready for the adventure ahead. (D)

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DAY  
2

## Badwater Basin &amp; Harmony Borax Works

We head to California this morning and the entrance of Death Valley National Park about 2 hours from Vegas with a pit stop about halfway through the drive. Enjoy a short walk at Badwater Basin (1-2 miles), a saltwater flat at 282 feet below sea level, making it the lowest place in North America and the 8th lowest spot on Earth. You will be surrounded by the Panamint Range rising above 10,000 feet. After quick stop at the visitor center to orient you to the many sides of the park we will enjoy time at Harmony Borax Works (up to 1 mile of walking) to learn about the mining history of borax in the region. (B, L, D)

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DAY  
3

## Keane Wonder Mine, Salt Creek &amp; Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes

Experience one most successful gold mines in Death Valley this morning at Keane Wonder Mine as we walk (2-3 miles) along the mining road to get a closer look at the mill and tramway system. We stop off at Hell's Gate for fantastic views of the park. After an afternoon siesta we continue our exploration at Salt Creek to learn about pupfish, which are endemic to Death Valley and have adapted to survive in the park's harsh environment. Before dinner take a stroll through the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes which can reach heights of 100 feet. This evening see firsthand why Death Valley is recognized as a Dark Sky Park with an opportunity to do some independent stargazing. (B, L, D)

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DAY  
4

## Titus Canyon &amp; Ubehebe Crater

We continue our geological exploration of the park with a visit to Titus Canyon including a short hike (up to 2 miles) to marvel at the rock stratifications formed over millions of years. The canyon also offers the opportunity to see the elusive chuckwalla, a lizard that has the unique defense mechanism of inflating itself in the cracks of rocks, to deter potential predators. After a picnic lunch, explore the 500-foot-deep Ubehebe Crater, formed by a massive volcanic explosion, with an optional 2-mile walk along the rim. As we make our way back to the Furnace Creek we will keep a look out for seasonal wildflower displays. (B, L)

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DAY  
5

## Sunrise at Zabriskie Point / Golden Canyon

Watching the sunlight slowly illuminate the mountains from Zabriskie Point at sunrise is a real treat. After breakfast back at the Inn, we venture out for another short hike (2 or 4 miles) through the multi-hued walls of Golden Canyon and along the slopes of the Gower Gulch for views of the badlands region of the park. Relax this afternoon at the nearby spring fed pool which is always around 87 degrees or spend some time at the visitor's center adjacent to our hotel. Enjoy one last sunset right from Furnace Creek before a farewell dinner. (B, L, D)



## Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge / Return to Las Vegas

After breakfast we head out of the park as the morning light is illuminating the bottom of the canyon our way to Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. We will visit the visitor center to learn a bit more about this unique refuge for the pupfish and many other species in the middle of the desert. Before returning to Vegas we will make a stop (up to 1 mile of walking) at the small sub-unit of Death Valley National Park located in Ash Meadows, Devil's Hole. This unit is home to a species of pupfish that was threatened with extinction by groundwater pumping for farming and a proposed housing development that was halted by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling to protect the world's rarest fish. Take an evening flight or extend your stay in Vegas and the surrounding area including Red Rock Canyon and Valley of Fire State Park. (B, L)

# Pricing

TRIP COST	PAYMENT TERMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3,395 each based on double occupancy</li> <li>• Single Supplement: \$695</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$750 deposit due to hold space</li> <li>• Balance due 90 days prior to departure</li> </ul>

TRIP PRICE INCLUDES	TRIP PRICE EXCLUDES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging as outlined in lodging section below based on double occupancy</li> <li>• Meals as noted in itinerary above</li> <li>• Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages</li> <li>• Park admission and museum admissions for all included activities</li> <li>• Services of professional trip leader(s)</li> <li>• Ground transportation for all included events during the trip &amp; portage service</li> <li>• Gratuities for your BSA guides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre &amp; post tour travel</li> <li>• Alcoholic beverages except welcome and farewell receptions</li> </ul>

# Lodging

### DoubleTree Las Vegas - 1 night

Located just a few minutes from the Las Vegas airport the DoubleTree features a free shuttle (and a free cookie) when you arrive. If you want to explore the strip before the trip begins simply hop on the free shuttle from the hotel to the Tropicana Hotel on the strip. If you prefer, take advantage of the outdoor pool or the PreCOR fitness center.

### Stovepipe Wells or lodging nearby - 2 nights

Providing easy access to the western part of Death Valley National Park, this Old West-style hotel dates back to 1926. Comfortable rooms feature Western design touches including Native American Bedspreads and steel miners' buckets with modern conveniences.

### The Ranch at Death Valley - 2 nights

Located in the heart of Death Valley, the Ranch offers accommodations in a casual, open-ranch-like setting. You'll enjoy clean rooms with triple-sheeting, a spring-fed swimming pool, sports courts, large grass lawns and more. After a day of activities enjoy the spring-fed pool or take an evening stroll through the palm gardens. Right from the patio you can take in a gorgeous sunset or do some stargazing.

# Terms

## **FINAL PAYMENT**

Final payment is due 90 days before departure, December 9, 2019.

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

If you cancel for any reason the following refund schedule applies:

- 91+ days prior to trip start: A \$100 fee per person will be deducted from any refund.
- 61-90 days prior to trip start: Cancellation fee equal to 25% of trip cost
- 31-60 days prior to trip start: Cancellation fee equal to 50% of trip cost
- 0-30 days prior to trip start: No refund

## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

We recommend travel insurance. For more information and to purchase go to <https://select.travelinsure.com/>

## **WAIVER**

All participants must complete our waiver online at [www.smartwaiver.com/v/bsahike](http://www.smartwaiver.com/v/bsahike)

## **DISCLAIMER**

The above itinerary is subject to change depending on a variety of factors. In every case, Black Sheep Adventures will endeavor to make you aware of changes as soon as possible, but, occasionally, changes must be made immediately prior to, or during, a departure. We strive to offer the best quality trip for each area and will make every effort to offer a comparable or better vacation. Rest assured our goal is to leave you with the best possible experience so you choose to travel with us again and tell your friends all about us. Black Sheep Adventures acts only as an agent for the various independent suppliers that provide hotel accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, activities, or other services connected with this tour. Such services are subject to the terms and conditions of those suppliers. Black Sheep Adventures and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability whatsoever from any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or any other incident which may be caused by the negligence, defect, default of any company or person in performing these services. Responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, local laws or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. Black Sheep Adventures is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects (including bicycles or bicycle gear) of any individual participating in the tours arranged by Black Sheep Adventures. Individual travelers are responsible for purchasing a travel insurance policy, if desired, that will cover some of the expenses associated with the loss of luggage or personal effects. California Seller of Traveler: 2108143

## **Questions & Booking**

**Call Black Sheep Adventures at 866-647-4337  
or Spartan Pathways Travel at 888-697-2863**

**<http://alumni.msu.edu/travel>**



# REGISTRATION FORM:

## Death Valley National Park | March 8-13, 2020

*(itinerary is preliminary & subject to change)*

**SEND TO:** Black Sheep Adventures  
900 Doolittle Drive  
Suite 3A  
San Leandro, CA 94577

Toll-free: 866-647-4337  
Fax: 800-881-2443  
Email: info@blacksheepadventures.com  
Spartan Pathways Travel: 888-697-2863

Please enter the names of each traveler:

1 Name	<input type="text"/>	MSU Class Year	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>	Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>
2 Name	<input type="text"/>	MSU Class Year	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>	Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>

Name for Name Badge 1

2

Address

City  State  Zip

Primary Phone  Cell Phone

I request a single room and will pay the supplement of \$695.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of \$  (\$750 per person)

Make check payable to Black Sheep Adventures, or charge my deposit to:

AMEX  Discover  MasterCard  Visa

Card #  Exp. Date  Sec. Code

Signature  Date