



Joshua Tree and Death Valley: Boulders, Desert Canyons, and Salt Flats

DURATION | 8 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Level 3 - Dynamic

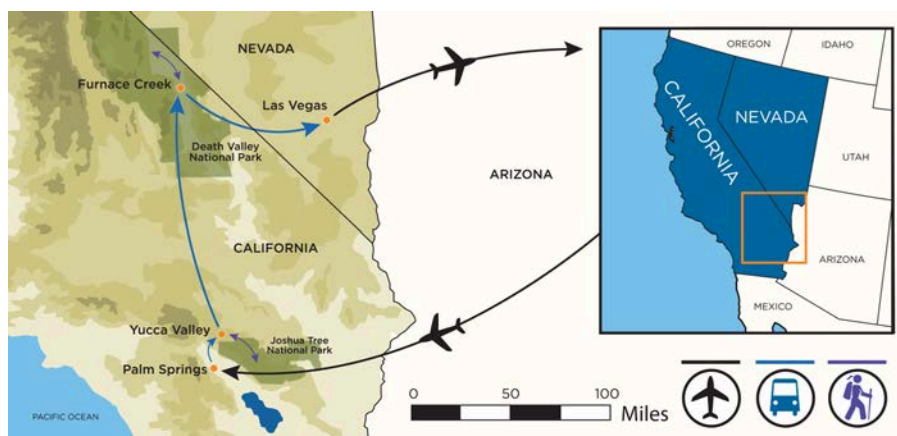
Trip Overview

This eight-day desert adventure moves through some of the most iconic and geologically dramatic landscapes in the American West. Begin in Joshua Tree National Park, where sunset hikes and desert exploration set the tone for days of varied, rewarding hiking among boulder fields, cactus gardens, and hidden valleys. Continue across the Mojave Desert into Death Valley National Park, where volcanic craters, narrow canyons, salt flats, and high viewpoints reveal the scale and power of the terrain. With a balance of challenging hikes, guided discovery, and restorative moments, this journey is designed for women ready to experience the desert's full range.

Trip Highlights

- Explore iconic boulder fields, cholla gardens, and hidden valleys in Joshua Tree National Park with guided hikes, panoramic climbs, and sunset walks that reveal the desert's unique ecology and geology.
- Experience the dramatic contrasts of Death Valley National Park, from Badwater Basin's salt flats to Golden Canyon hikes and Dante's View, showcasing vast desert extremes and ancient geological formations.
- Blend wellness and geology with sound baths, Titus Canyon narrows, and Ubehebe Crater explorations, combining restorative experiences with rugged desert landscapes and volcanic history in the Mojave Desert.

Map View



Arrival: Arrive at Palm Springs Airport (PSP) by 1 PM

Departure: Las Vegas, NV (LAS) – book flights departing after 6:00 PM, or plan to stay overnight



Trip Itinerary



Day 1

Welcome Sunset in Joshua Tree

Arrive at Palm Springs Airport (PSP) by 1 PM, then transfer to Yucca Valley on the edge of Joshua Tree National Park. After checking in and dropping off your luggage, head into the park for an easy sunset hike. This gentle outing is a great way to stretch your legs after traveling while taking in the area's iconic boulder formations and distinctive Joshua trees. End the day with a welcome picnic dinner in the park as the sun sets over the desert landscape. Hiking Details: ~2–3 miles, 60-90-minute, easy terrain

Meals: dinner | Overnight: Spark by Hilton



Spark by Hilton

The Spark by Hilton Yucca Valley Joshua Tree is a comfortable, well-appointed hotel situated in the center of Yucca Valley, just 10 minutes from Pioneertown and about 20 minutes from Joshua Tree National Park. Rooms are decorated in warm, earthy tones offering a welcoming desert retreat. On-site amenities include an outdoor pool, a fitness center, dry cleaning and laundry services, making it a convenient home base for exploring the Mojave Desert.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, refrigerator, coffee / tea maker, flatscreen TV, air conditioning, Wi-Fi



Trip Itinerary



Day 2

Signature Joshua Tree Exploration

Discover Joshua Tree at its most unforgettable on a full day of desert exploration with a medically trained naturalist guide. Wander among the cholla, boulders, and hidden valleys of this otherworldly landscape, stopping at highlights like Cholla Cactus Garden, Skull Rock, and Hidden Valley while uncovering the stories behind its remarkable plants, geology, and history. For an added adventure, choose the panoramic climb up Ryan Mountain or the quieter, scenic route to Mastodon Peak, depending on the group's interests and energy. Hiking Details: Approximately 5–7 miles over moderate terrain with some rocky sections.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Spark by Hilton



Trip Itinerary



Day 3

Desert Wellness and Discovery

Experience a memorable blend of nature, wellness, and local culture on a day that captures Joshua Tree's quieter side. Join your naturalist guide to explore Barker Dam and Hidden Valley Loop, where striking rock formations, desert flora, and wide-open views showcase the meeting of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. After a picnic lunch, relax into a 60-minute sound bath, then spend the afternoon browsing the area's quirky desert towns and arts communities or returning to the hotel to unwind. Hiking Details ~ 1.5-2 hours, total experience ~ 2.5 to 3.5 hours, approximately 2-2.5 miles

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Spark by Hilton



Trip Itinerary



Day 4

Farewell to Joshua Tree

Savor a final morning in Joshua Tree with one last hike among its sculpted boulders, desert flora, and wide-open vistas before a picnic lunch and farewell to the park. Afterward, travel through the dramatic Mojave Desert en route to Death Valley National Park, with the possibility of a stop at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge or the historic Rhyolite ghost town. Arrive at Stovepipe Wells in time for a sunset dune walk and dinner, marking a memorable close to the day. Hiking Details: 3–4 miles, 90 minutes-2 hours, moderate terrain, ~1–2 miles in sand, 30-45 minutes

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: The Ranch at Death Valley



The Ranch at Death Valley

The Ranch at Death Valley is a historic, family-friendly resort welcoming guests since 1933, originally built as a working ranch that has since been transformed into a full private resort adjacent to the National Park Service visitor center at Furnace Creek. Guests can take advantage of an impressive array of amenities, including an ever-refreshing 87-degree spring-fed pool.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, refrigerator, flatscreen TV, air conditioning, Wi-Fi



Trip Itinerary



Day 5

Explore Ancient Geology

Enjoy breakfast before embarking on a hike along the gravel road into the spectacular Titus Canyon narrows, marveling at ancient rock stratifications and desert wildlife. After a picnic lunch, explore the 600-foot-deep Ubehebe Crater formed by a volcanic explosion. Choose to admire the view from the rim or hike the full rim trail for panoramic views. In the evening, return to the hotel for a group dinner at Stovepipe Wells. Hiking Details: 4 miles, 90-minute to 2 hours, moderate terrain with gravel and uneven surfaces Ubehebe Crater: up to 2 miles along the crater rim (30-45 minutes)

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: The Ranch at Death Valley



Trip Itinerary



Day 6

Wildrose Peak Summit

Get ready for your most challenging day hiking Wildrose Peak Summit. Drive and start the hike at approximately 7,000 feet. Cross through pinyon pine and juniper forest to the summit of Wildrose Peak (9,064 feet). The summit rewards with sweeping views across Death Valley's varied landscape. (If weather does not permit this hike, an alternate route with excellent views will be substituted.) After the hike, enjoy dinner on your own as you reminisce on today's views. Hiking Details: ~8 miles round trip, 4-5 hours, ~2,500 ft elevation gain

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: The Ranch at Death Valley



Trip Itinerary



Day 7

Sunrise in Death Valley

Rise early to watch the sunrise illuminate the badlands and Panamint Mountains from Zabriskie Point. Return to Furnace Creek for breakfast to fuel up for your full-morning hike through the multi-hued walls of Golden Canyon toward the Red Cathedral formation. Continue beneath Zabriskie Point and into the badlands, passing Manly Beacon as you enjoy a picnic lunch. Free afternoon to relax by the spring-fed pool at the hotel or explore on your own. Dinner on your own tonight. Hiking Details: ~6 miles, 2.5-3.5 hours, ~1,100 ft elevation gain/loss, some scrambling (hands and feet, no technical skill required).

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: The Ranch at Death Valley



Trip Itinerary



Day 8

Farewell to Death Valley

Take one final look at the dramatic landscapes of the desert. Start the morning at Dante's View, where sweeping panoramas reveal Telescope Peak, rugged mountain ranges, and striking alluvial fans shaped over millions of years. Continue to Badwater Basin, the lowest point in North America, and walk across the vast salt flats framed by towering peaks. After lunch, begin your transfer to Las Vegas, stopping for exclusive behind-the-scenes access at the historic Amargosa Opera House. Hiking Details: 2 miles, ~1 hour ~400 ft elevation gain/loss, ~2 miles, 30-45 minutes, flat terrain



What's Included

What's Included

- Accommodation as listed, based on double occupancy
- All meals, as listed in the itinerary
- All ground transportation
- One airport group transfer on scheduled arrival and departure days
- All park fees
- Activities as indicated in the itinerary
- Professional guide(s) throughout the trip
- Gratuities for hotel and restaurant staff

Not Included

- Airfare
- Optional activities
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- Fees for passports, visas, immunizations
- Travel Insurance: cost of medical expenses, hospitalization, evacuation
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuities for guides and drivers

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

