

Fact Sheet

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Death Valley General Information

Geography

- Death Valley National Park is located in the Mojave Desert in California and Nevada, 120 miles from the nearest major city.
- Death Valley is a 156-mile-long north-south valley formed between two mountain ranges – the Armargosa Range on the east and the Panamint Range on the west
- The park is 3.4 million acres making it the largest national park in the contiguous U.S.
- Death Valley is the hottest, driest, lowest spot in North America.
- The Badwater Basin in the park is the lowest point in the US at 282 feet below sea level. The salt flats in Badwater basin cover nearly 200 square miles
- Telescope Peak is the highest point in the park at 11,049ft. Bristlecone pines grow on the summit of this mountain.
- The Mesquite Flat Dunes were a shooting location for the “Star Wars” films in the 1970s.

Flora and Fauna

- Death Valley hosts nearly 400 species of native wildlife.
- There are more than 300 species of birds, including red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, LeConte’s thrasher and Townsend’s solitaire.
- The park also is home to mammals such as the bighorn sheep, coyote, gray fox and bats.
- Amphibians such as the desert-banded gecko live in the wetter regions and many reptiles such as lizards, snakes and tortoises populate the drier areas.
- More than 1,000 species of plants cover the park grounds, mainly low-lying shrubs, but Joshua trees and bristlecone pines can be found at higher elevations.
- Wildflowers bloom profusely in spring when enough rain falls.
- Devils Hole, a detached unit of DVNP is habitat for the only naturally occurring population of the endangered Devils Hole Pupfish

Weather and Climate

- In July, temperatures average 116 F.
- On July 10, 1913, temperatures at one point reached 134 F, the highest ambient air temperature ever recorded on earth’s surface

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