



Backcountry Roads



Death Valley National Park

A vehicle with *high-clearance* will be necessary for all of the roads described below, but *four wheel-drive* may also be required on some of the rougher roads. Inquire at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center or other ranger stations for additional information and current road conditions.

Please stay on established roads and respect wilderness closures.

Do not remove or disturb any cultural or natural features in the park.

Be sure to carry plenty of water; never rely on backcountry water sources.

Backcountry camping is restricted to certain areas, please check in at the visitor center before planning an overnight trip and fill out a free Backcountry Permit.

Travel and camp using "Leave No Trace" principles.

1 Hole-in-the-Wall

Vehicle needed: high-clearance first 4 miles; 4x4 required beyond

Distance: 4 miles to the "hole"; 2 more miles to road's end

Start: 5.5 miles east of Furnace Creek Inn on Hwy 190

Camping: yes, after first 1 mile

Description: This road traverses east up a gravel wash. After passing through the 400' deep gap called Hole-in-the-Wall, the road becomes rougher.

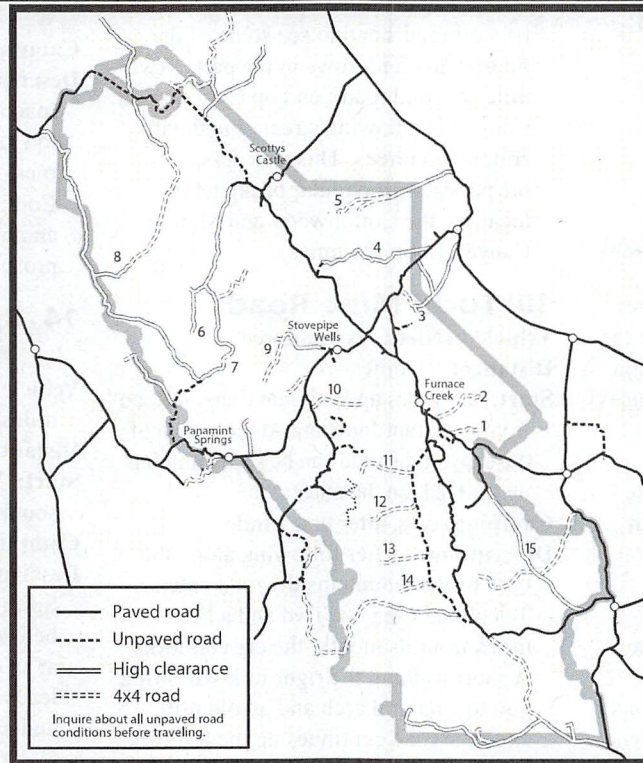
2 Echo Canyon

Vehicle needed: high-clearance first 3 miles, 4x4 required beyond

Distance: 10 miles to Inyo Mine
Start: 2 miles east of Furnace Creek Inn on Hwy 190

Camping: yes, after first 1 mile

Description: The road tends to have deep gravel and is quite rocky 3 miles from the highway. The Needle's Eye, a natural arch, is located within the canyon narrows. A side road to the left climbs over a small saddle and eventually leads to Amargosa Valley, but is extremely rough, requiring a short wheelbase, 4x4, and an experienced driver. The main road continues to the Inyo Mine with its old structures and remnants of mining equipment.



4 Titus Canyon

Vehicle needed: high-clearance

Distance: 27 miles

Start: Nevada Highway 374 (Daylight Pass Road), 2 miles east of park boundary

Camping: no

Description: This popular road is ONE-WAY from east to west. The road re-enters the park and winds through the Grapevine Mountains, then drops down through one of Death Valley's most spectacular canyons. Along the way watch for the ghost town of Leadfield and petroglyphs at Klare Spring. Please report sightings of Bighorn Sheep to the visitor center. A free information handout describing the trip highlights can be picked up at the visitor center.

3 Chloride City

Vehicle needed: high-clearance first 2 miles, 4x4 required beyond

Distance: 14 miles

Start: 3.4 miles east of Hell's Gate on Daylight Pass Road

Camping: yes, after first 1 mile

Description: One of the earliest sites of mining in Death Valley can be reached via a loop drive. Two miles from the Daylight Pass Road is Monarch Canyon, then the road becomes deeply rutted. The road to Chloride City and Chloride Cliff beyond climbs steeply to the right at 5.3 miles. Loop back to the paved road an easier way by continuing northeast down the road from the Chloride City junction.

5 Phinney Canyon

Vehicle needed: high-clearance first 21 miles, 4x4 required beyond.

Distance: 23 miles to pass

Start: 11.7 miles north of Beatty, Nevada on Highway 95, watch for gated road to the left

Camping: yes

Description: Heading west across Sarcobatus Flats, the road forks 12 miles in to Strozzi Ranch on the left, and to Phinney Canyon on the right. Pinyon pine woodlands appear after the canyon is entered, and the road quickly becomes 4x4. From the pass there are views of the Grapevine Mountains high country and glimpses of the Sierra Nevada Range.



6 The Racetrack

Vehicle needed: high-clearance, all terrain tires required (sharp rocks)

Distance: 28 miles to The Racetrack

Start: Ubehebe Crater Road

Camping: yes, after first 1 mile, but no camping between Teakettle Junction and Homestake Dry Camp.

Description: This road leads to The Racetrack, a dry lakebed famous for its "moving rocks." Two miles beyond the playa is the ruins of the Lippincott Mine and an informal camping area known as Homestake Dry Camp.

Do not drive onto the dry lakebed!

7 Hunter Mountain and Hidden Valley

Vehicle needed: high-clearance to Hidden Valley; 4x4 over Hunter Mountain

Distance: 40 miles from Teakettle Junction to Hwy 190

Start: Teakettle Junction, Racetrack Road, Saline Valley

Camping: yes, away from mining sites

Description: From Teakettle Junction the road becomes rougher. At the junction 3.2 miles in, the left fork (NE) continues 10 miles to White Top Mountain (4x4) while the right fork leads one mile up to the Lost Burro Mine. The main road continues through Hidden Valley and Ulida Flat, passing several abandoned mining areas. The road climbs steeply up onto the wooded plateau that is Hunter Mountain. Snow and icy conditions may make this section impassable in winter. The road improves after it joins the southern end of Saline Valley Road to Hwy 190.

8 Saline Valley

Vehicle needed: high-clearance, but may require 4x4 in winter. Subject to winter closures.

Distance: 78 miles from Hwy 190 to Big Pine Road

Start: 13.7 miles west of Panamint Springs on Hwy 190

Camping: yes

Description: One of the most remote locations in California, this desert basin is surrounded by rugged mountains on all sides. The finest Joshua tree forest in the park is located 8 miles in at Lee Flat. Also salt marshes, sand dunes, warm springs, and stunning views of the Inyo Mountains.

9 Cottonwood and Marble Canyons

Vehicle needed: high-clearance, 4x4

Distance: 13 miles Marble Canyon; 16 miles Cottonwood Canyon

Start: east of the Stovepipe Wells airstrip

Camping: yes, after first 8 miles

Description: For the first 8 miles, the road crosses Mesquite Flat and climbs a broad alluvial fan before reaching the canyon mouth. This first section is often sandy, then the road drops into the wash and becomes rocky and rough. One mile past the end of the first narrows, a side road leads up to Marble Canyon. Hikers can continue up the canyon beyond road's end to see some of the finest canyon narrows in the park. Two miles beyond road's end up Cottonwood Canyon is a flowing stream lined with cottonwood trees. This is access to the park's most popular backpacking location, the Cottonwood and Marble Canyon Loop (26 miles).

10 Tucki Mine Road

Vehicle needed: 4x4 required

Distance: 10 miles

Start: 1.7 miles up Emigrant Canyon Road from Emigrant Junction. At the mouth of the canyon the road can be seen climbing up the bank on the other side

Camping: yes, after first 1 mile

Description: After following along the base of the mountains the road enters Telephone Canyon. Two and a half miles from its mouth, the canyon forks. A short walk up the right fork will bring you to a natural arch and an old mill site. The road continues up the left fork to the ruins of Tucki Mine.

11 Trail Canyon

Vehicle needed: high-clearance first 4 miles, 4x4 required beyond

Distance: 12 miles

Start: 5 miles from the north end of West Side Road

Camping: yes, after first 1 mile

Description: This road leads to a spring and old mining area at the forks of the canyon. After entering the wash, the first side canyon on your left (south) makes a nice short hike.

12 Hanaupah Canyon

Vehicle needed: high-clearance first 5 miles, 4x4 required beyond

Distance: 8 miles

Start: 11 miles from the north end of

West Side Road

Camping: yes, after first 1 mile

Description: After climbing the huge alluvial fan, the road drops into the gravel wash at the canyon's mouth after 5 miles. The road follows the south fork, downstream from Hanaupah Springs. Hikers can continue past the end of the road to the spring and old mining area.

13 Johnson Canyon

Vehicle needed: high-clearance first 6 miles; 4x4 beyond

Distance: 10 miles

Start: about 20 miles from either end of West Side Road

Camping: yes, after first 1 mile

Description: Beyond the end of the road a 2 mile hike leads up the canyon to Hungry Bill's Ranch, with its rock-walled terraces and fruit trees. Continue on foot up the south fork another ½ mile to several old mining prospects.

14 Butte Valley via Warm Springs Canyon

Vehicle needed: high-clearance first 10 miles to talc mines; 4x4 beyond

Distance: 21 miles to Butte Valley

Start: West Side Road, 2.9 miles from southern end

Camping: yes, after first 1 mile

Description: This road follows Warm Springs Canyon past several talc mines before leading into scenic Butte Valley, at an elevation of 4500'. A rough road leads out of the park over Mengel Pass and into Panamint Valley to the west via Goler Wash (4x4 required).

15 Greenwater Valley

Vehicle needed: high-clearance

Distance: 28 miles

Start: Dantes View Road, 7.5 miles south of Hwy 190

Camping: yes, after first 1 mile from either end

Description: From Dantes View Road to Hwy 178, this road follows the length of this mid-elevation valley. Good for spring wildflowers if winter rains fall. Once bustling during mining booms, little remains of the ghost towns of Furnace and Greenwater, accessible via side roads. A rough, dead-end road to Gold Valley (4x4 required) leads off to the west 17 miles from the north end.