

Day Hikes



Death Valley National Park

Always carry water, even in winter. Hiking at low elevations during the summer is not recommended.

Do not remove any natural or cultural features from the park.

Avoid hiking in canyons during heavy rains because of potential flash flood danger.

Easy Walks to Moderate Hikes

These hikes are short, but most can be extended if you feel like exploring.

1 Golden Canyon Interpretive Trail

Length: 1 mile, one-way.

Difficulty: easy

Start: Golden Canyon parking area, 2 miles south of Hwy 190 on Badwater Road.

Description: Easy trail through colorful canyon. Red Cathedral located ¼ mile up canyon from last numbered marker. Interpretive trail guides are available.

2 Gower Gulch Loop

Length: 4 miles round-trip.

Difficulty: moderate

Start: Golden Canyon parking area, 2 miles south of Hwy 190 on Badwater Rd.

Description: Colorful badlands, canyon narrows, old borax mines. Hike up Golden Canyon to marker #10, then follow trail over badlands to Zabriskie Point or down Gower Gulch (no trail) to finish loop. Two easy dryfalls must be scrambled down. Ask for Gower Gulch handout at Visitor Center.

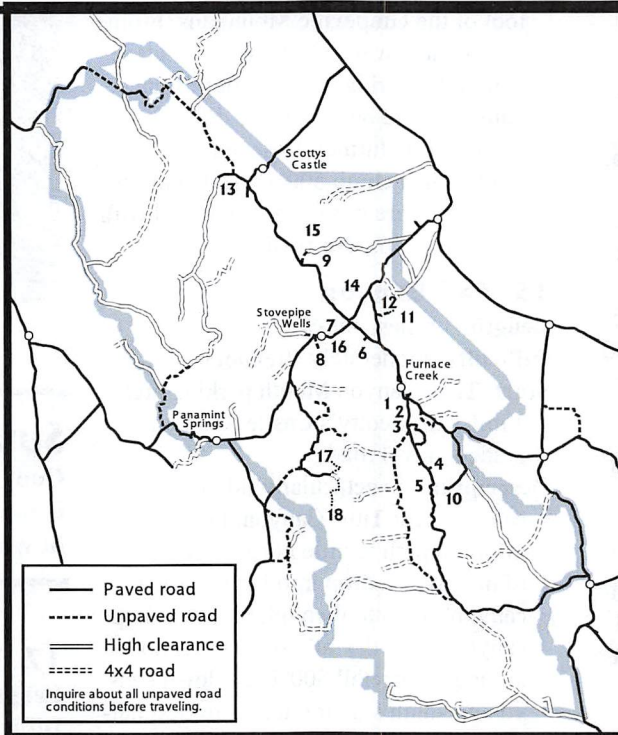
3 Desolation Canyon

Length: 3 miles, round-trip.

Difficulty: moderate

Start: parking area at end of ½ mile dirt road off Badwater Road, 3.7 miles south of Hwy 190.

Description: Narrow canyon through colorful badlands. Follow old road and then main wash east continuing toward cliffs, then follow the wash draining from the south. Hike up canyon, keeping to the right at the forks. **No trail.**



6 Salt Creek Interpretive Trail

Length: ½ mile round-trip.

Difficulty: easy

Start: Salt Creek parking area, 1 mile off Hwy 190 on graded gravel road, 13.5 miles north of Furnace Creek.

Description: Boardwalk along small stream. Good for viewing rare pupfish and other wildlife. Best in late winter/early spring.

7 Sand Dunes

Length: 2 miles to highest dune

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Start: Sand Dunes parking area near Stove pipe Wells.

Description: Graceful desert dunes, numerous animal tracks. Walk cross-country to 100 ft. high dunes. Best in morning or afternoon for dramatic light. Also good for full moon hikes.

No trail.

4 Natural Bridge Canyon

Length: 1 mile to end of canyon, ½ mile to natural bridge.

Difficulty: easy

Start: Natural Bridge parking area, 1.5 miles off Badwater Road on gravel road, 13.2 miles south of Hwy 190.

Description: Uphill walk through narrow canyon. Large natural bridge at ½ mile. Trail ends at dry waterfall.

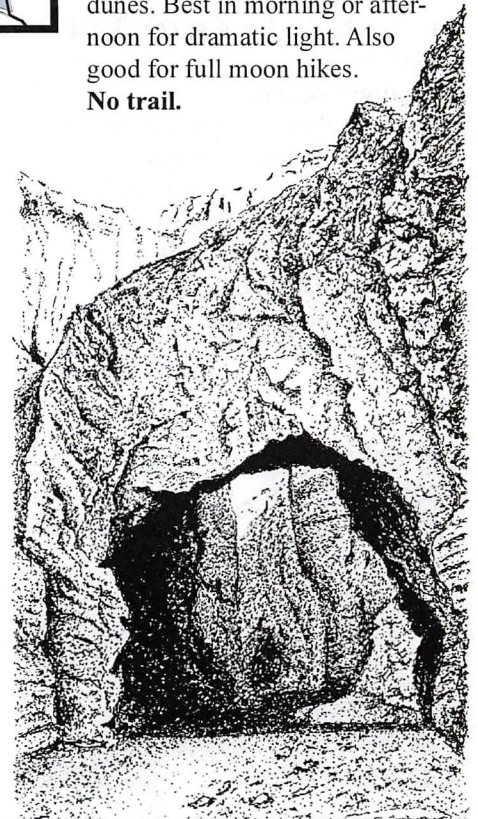
5 Badwater Salt Flat

Length: ½ mile to edge, 5 miles across

Difficulty: easy

Start: Badwater parking area, 17 miles south of Hwy 190 on Badwater Road.

Description: Level walk across lowest place in the western hemisphere. Crust of salt crystals may be covered with temporary lake after rain storms. Watch out for muddy areas. **No trail. Do not hike this area during hot months.**



8 Mosaic Canyon

Length: ½ to 2 miles, one-way.

Difficulty: moderate

Start: Mosaic Canyon parking area, 2 miles from Stovepipe Wells Village on graded gravel road.

Description: Popular walk up a narrow, polished marble-walled canyon. First ½ mile is narrowest section. Some slickrock scrambling necessary. "Mosaics" of fragments of rocks cemented together can be seen in canyon walls. Bighorn sheep sighted occasionally.

9 Titus Canyon Narrows

Length: 1.5 miles, one-way.

Difficulty: easy

Start: Titus Canyon Mouth parking area, 3 miles off Scotty's Castle Road on graded gravel road.

Description: Easy access to lower Titus Canyon. Follow gravel road up wash 1.5 miles through narrows or continue to Klare Springs and petroglyphs at 6.5 miles. No camping allowed.

10 Dante's Ridge

Length: ½ miles to first summit, 4 miles one-way to Mt. Perry

Difficulty: moderate

Start: Dantes View parking area

Description: Follow ridge north of Dantes View for spectacular vistas and a cool place to escape summer heat. **No trail** for last 3.5 miles

13 Little Hebe Crater Trail

Length: ½ mile, one-way.

Difficulty: moderate

Start: Ubehebe Crater parking area, 8 miles west of Scotty's Castle.

Description: Volcanic craters and elaborate erosion. Hike along west rim of Ubehebe Crater to Little Hebe and several other craters. Continue around Ubehebe's rim for 1.5 mile loop hike.



Adventurous Hikes

No trails.....you're on your own.

14 Death Valley Buttes

Length: 1.2 mile to top of first butte

Difficulty: strenuous

Start: Hell's Gate parking area on Daylight Pass Road.

Description: Climb prominent buttes at foot of the Grapevine Mountains. From Hell's Gate, walk SW ½ mile to buttes. Scramble up ridge to summit of first butte. Second butte is more difficult and 0.7 mile further. Descend 300' to saddle, then climb 500' to next summit. The ridges are narrow and exposed with steep drop-offs. **No trail.**

15 Fall Canyon

Length: 3 miles, one-way.

Difficulty: moderately strenuous

Start: Titus Canyon Mouth parking area, 3 miles off Scotty's Castle Road on graded gravel road.

Description: Spectacular wilderness canyon near Titus Canyon. Follow informal path ½ mile north along base of mountains, drop into large wash at canyon's mouth, then hike 2½ miles up canyon to 35' dryfall. You can climb around the dryfall 300' back down canyon on south side for access to best narrows. Canyon continues another 3 miles before second dryfall blocks passage. **No trail.**

16 Little Bridge Canyon

Length: 3 miles, one-way.

Difficulty: moderately strenuous

Start: 3 miles west of Scotty's Castle junction on Hwy 190. Park along road at end of straight stretch.

Description: Climb large alluvial fan south of road 2 miles to canyon mouth. A small arch is on the right ½ mile into canyon and 20' high natural bridge spans east side of the canyon ½ mile beyond. **No trail,** Grotto Canyon topo map.



Summer Hikes

Cool places to hike when the valley is too hot, but may be snow covered in winter.

17 Wildrose Peak Trail

Length: 4.2 miles, one-way.

Difficulty: moderately strenuous

Start: Charcoal Kilns parking area on upper Wildrose Canyon Road.

Description: A good high peak to climb (9,064 ft.). Trail begins at north end of kilns with an elevation gain of 2,200 ft. Spectacular views beyond 2 mile point. Steep grade for last mile.

18 Telescope Peak Trail

Length: 7 miles, one-way.

Difficulty: strenuous

Start: Mahogany Flat Campground at end of upper Wildrose Canyon Road.

Rough, steep road after Charcoal Kilns. **Description:** Trail to highest peak in the park (11,049 ft.) with a 3,000 ft. elevation gain. Climbing this peak in the winter requires ice axe and crampons, and only advised for experienced winter climbers. Trail is usually snow-free by June.