A TOUR FOR
USC RETIREES

DEATH VALLEY SPLENDOR

FEATURING A FURNACE CREEK RANCH STAY, SCOTTY’S CASTLE, BADWATER, GEOGRAPHER-GUIDE

MARCH 1-3, 2015 - 3 DAY TOUR

~DAY BY DAY ITINERARY~

Ever since the first immigrants saw Death Valley, fantastic tales have been told of its incredible temperatures and enormous riches. But exaggeration is inevitable in describing this narrow valley of strange, exciting beauty, cradled between towering, multi-colored mountains. Now comes your opportunity to enjoy the inviting and alluring Valley that so many before have visited. To walk on its soil, to gaze upon its eclectic geological formations, to relax under its horizon. Welcome to Death Valley.

• See the famous and unique sites including Ubehebe Crater, Harmony Borax Works, Zabriskie Point, Devil’s Golf Course, the Furnace Creek Inn and Badwater
• A docent-guided tour of the iconic Scotty’s Castle, to learn about “Death Valley Scotty”
• Stay in the heart of Death Valley at the Furnace Creek Ranch
• Extensive guided sightseeing of both upper and lower Death Valley National Park with knowledgeable geographer-guide and former geography professor, Dennis Napier

FINE HOTELS / GREAT LOCATIONS

• Nights 1-2 Furnace Creek Ranch
  Death Valley, CA

TOUR INCLUSIONS

• 2 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
• 3 Meals – 1 lunch, 2 breakfasts
• Comprehensive sightseeing with a professional GTT tour director/geographer guide
• Admissions per itinerary
• Transportation on a deluxe motorcoach
• Luggage handling throughout the tour

PER PERSON PRICES

Double $499 / Single $639 • Deposit $100

Travel Protection/Cancellation Plan – see reverse

• DAY 1 - ARRIVE IN DEATH VALLEY
  A place of unexpected contrasts, this valley of sand dunes and salt has an abundance of natural wonders that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. We’ll explore the wealth of geological phenomena this vast area has to offer at a delightful time of year, while staying within a lush oasis. On board throughout this tour is geographer, Dennis Napier, who from the beginning of the tour will begin to educate on the areas we are passing through and our destination, Death Valley. Dennis is a former professor of geography at Long Beach City College and his extensive knowledge and diverse background will make your journey an enlightening one. After leaving from our departure points this morning, we’ll make a stop for lunch before arriving in the Valley in the late afternoon. See the incredible landscape at Devil’s Golf Course and the lowest point in the western hemisphere – Badwater. Check into the Furnace Creek Ranch, our accommodations for the next two nights. The Ranch offers a spring-fed swimming pool and tennis courts and is situated in a lush oasis in the heart of the National Park and surrounded by the vast desert. The Ranch, which takes you back to the early West, has been an operating business since 1881 and was the original home of the now famous Borax 20-Mule teams.

• DAY 2 - UPPER DEATH VALLEY
  Enjoy an included breakfast buffet this morning – the perfect fuel for our day of touring castles and craters in Upper Death Valley. Our geographer-guide will provide commentary on local and regional history, geology, legends and wildlife as we tour Death Valley National Park. Visit Harmony Borax Works and learn how Borax was discovered in this area, how 20-mule teams transported it and what importance Borax still has to the world today. Later this morning, visit the castle of the desert and learn of the Valley’s greatest legend – “Death Valley Scotty”. On a 1939 living...
history tour of Scotty’s Castle, you’ll learn how and why this shady cowboy that toured with Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show came to build a castle in the middle of Death Valley. Later, we’ll visit Ubehebe Crater. Around 6,000 years ago a powerful volcanic explosion created a crater a half mile in diameter and more than 500 feet deep. Ubehebe Crater is the largest in a series of craters found in the area. An included box lunch will be provided during our excursion today. In the late afternoon we’ll visit the National Park Visitor Center, enjoy the views of Manly Beacon from Zabriskie Point and the sunset from the Furnace Creek Inn. (Breakfast, Lunch)

**DAY 3 ~ LOWER DEATH VALLEY**

After an included breakfast buffet, we’ll make our way out of Death Valley and travel past the massive sand dunes near Stovepipe Wells as we depart via the western exit of the Park on our way towards Southern California. A stop will be made for lunch on your own before we arrive back at our drop-off points in the evening. While we will have left the Valley, its flamboyant coloring, geologic phenomena and peaceful serenity will remain in our memories forever. (Breakfast)