



Death Valley National Park

Desert Southwest, California

A photographic experience with Richard Martin

Saturday March 6 – Saturday March 13, 2010

This seven day photographic tour will explore the wealth of unusual geological phenomena contained in Death Valley national Park. Experience large sand dune formations, sculpted rocks, isolated valleys, volcanic craters, canyons and mountain view points. The central theme of this tour will be the sea of magnificent sand dunes near Stovepipe Wells. During sunrises and sunsets, experience the graphic simplicity and visual impact of pure form in the desert, as cascading golden light falls on the tall sensuous dunes.

In addition, this tour will also explore the Alabama Hills (setting for many western movies and commercials) to photograph the towering monoliths, massive boulders and eroded arches with the jagged peaks of the southern Sierra Nevada range as a backdrop.

Death valley is a place of unexpected contrasts. It ranges from less than 4 miles wide to about 61 miles in width and is about 146 miles long. Elevations in the park range from 282 feet below sea level near Badwater (the lowest point in the Western hemisphere) to 11,049 feet above sea level at Telescope Peak (Panamint Range).

During the winter it is surrounded by snow-capped mountains and on a clear day you can see the highest point in the lower states, Mount Whitney at 14,405 feet. The average yearly rainfall on the valley floor is less than 2 inches. One of the hottest regions of the world, the valley can experience daytime temperatures in summer as high as 134 F. However, during the winter months between late fall and early spring (November through April) the warm days and cool evenings are quite enjoyable. Temperatures can range from 60 F during the day to near freezing at night. The winter lighting can be spectacular and winter storm clouds piling up over the Sierras add contrast to the scenic landscapes. During winter, when the sun is low in the sky, there will be more time after sunrise and before sunset to make outstanding dune photographs.



Field trips will be taken to the most spectacular features throughout Death Valley, at a time of day when the quality of light will produce the best results. The following pages contain details of the daily itinerary with highlights of the various destinations we will photograph. We welcome you to join us in our exploration of this unique area. Photographic opportunities are endless throughout the trip!

Our tour itinerary has been designed specifically for serious photographers, to ensure that more concentrated time is spent in the most photogenic areas. In addition to individual attention in the field, time will be spent reviewing participants work while learning digital workflow and visual design. Instruction is kept flexible to accommodate a changing itinerary and varying skill levels of the participants.

Day 1: Saturday March 6 After our morning arrival in Las Vegas we will travel to the village of Stovepipe Wells. This area hosts some of the most photogenic sand dunes in North America, covering an area of 14 square miles. It will serve as our base, as we explore the scenery of Death Valley and experience the visual impact of desert sunrises and sunsets. Our goal this evening is to photograph sunset on the sand dunes.

OVERNIGHT STOVEPIPE WELLS



Day 2: Sunday March 7 The day begins before dawn with a sunrise on the sand dunes. After breakfast we will explore the area south of Furnace Creek. Highlights include Artist's Drive, a scenic 9-mile route of colourful volcanic rock among the foothills of the Black Mountains. Photograph in an area called the Artist's Palette where the rocks look as though someone splashed red, yellow, green, pink, orange, brown and black paint all over them. The

canyon and mountain range walls change colour with the shifting sunlight.

Other destinations may include Golden Canyon, an easy 2-mile trail that winds through carved rock formations, and Devil's Golf Course, a vast area containing pillars of salt crystals.

OVERNIGHT STOVEPIPE WELLS

Day 3: Monday March 8 The morning will be spent exploring the dramatic vistas of Zabriskie Point. Photograph a wildly coloured panorama at dawn as the rising sun turns the landscape into a golden hue mixed with earth browns. After sunrise we will travel to Dante's View, offering an overview of Death Valley including Badwater (the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere) from a vantage point of 5,475 feet above the valley. On a clear day you can see across to the snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains and the highest point in the lower states, Mount Whitney.

OVERNIGHT STOVEPIPE WELLS



Day 4: Tuesday March 9 After sunrise in Death Valley we will travel to Lone Pine to explore the Alabama Hills. This area has been the setting for many western movies and commercials. Photograph towering monoliths and massive boulders that have been eroded into unusual shapes. The backdrop for these unique hills is Mount Whitney and the Sierra Nevada Range.

OVERNIGHT LONE PINE

Day 5: Wednesday March 10 Today we continue exploring the Alabama Hills area with digital workflow and review during the mid-day.

OVERNIGHT LONE PINE

Day 6: Friday March 11 After sunrise in the Alabama Hills we will return to Death Valley.

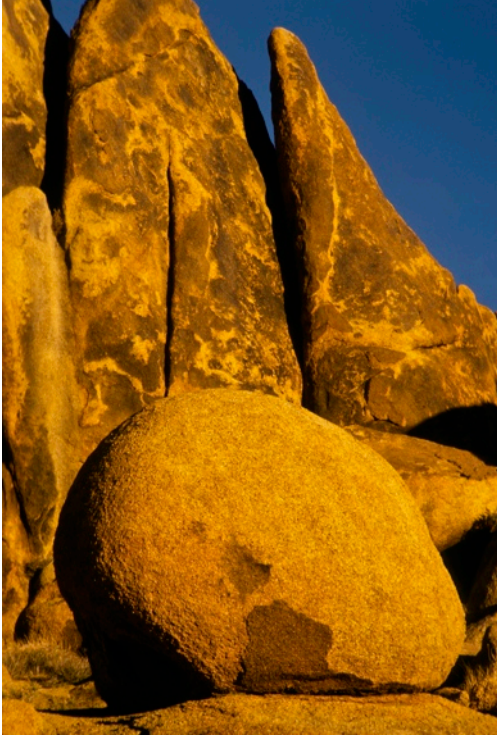
OVERNIGHT STOVEPIPE WELLS

Day 7: Thursday March 12 The day begins with a sunrise at Badwater (280 feet below sea level) Photograph Telescope Peak, the 11,049 foot high point of the Panamint Range reflected in the large pool of water on the desert floor. The remainder of the day will be spent exploring and photographing the landscapes of Death Valley.

OVERNIGHT STOVEPIPE WELLS



Day 8: Saturday March 13 Today is our final day of the tour. The early morning will be spent photographing a desert sunrise on the dunes before we transfer to Las Vegas for our afternoon flight home.



INSTRUCTOR: RICHARD MARTIN

LIMIT: 3 Participants.

COST: \$2,129.00 USD

Includes: all land arrangements, including surface travel by SUV, accommodation based on double occupancy- we assign a roommate if travelling alone (single accommodation, if desired is available at an additional cost), and instruction by Richard Martin.

Not Included: Airfare from your point of origin to Las Vegas, Nevada and return, meals, cancellation and medical insurance and items of a personal nature.

For more information: contact Richard Martin email richardmartinphoto@cogeco.ca

