Death Valley
SAND DUNES, CANYONS & WILDFLOWERS
March 12 - 17, 2023
Itinerary

Sunday, March 12
Arrive in Las Vegas
Arrive in Las Vegas independently, and gather at 5:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Place hotel for a welcome drink, introductions, and a trip orientation on the park. Dinner will follow near the hotel. *Hyatt Place Las Vegas (D)*

Monday, March 13
Ash Meadows & Death Valley
En route to Death Valley we visit Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. We stop at the visitor center to learn of the plight of the pupfish and explore the Crystal Spring boardwalk. Arrive Death Valley in time to enjoy the park’s visitor center. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight. *Oasis at Death Valley (B,L,D)*

Tuesday, March 14
Dante’s View, Salt Creek & Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes
Experience Dante’s View, located at 5,475 feet, and take in a stunning panorama of all 11,049 feet of Telescope Peak. Learn about the creation of the park’s many alluvial fans, the product of millions of years of sporadic yet constant erosion. Later visit Salt Creek and learn about the amazing pupfish, endemic to Death Valley and uniquely adapted to survive in the desert’s harsh environment. End the day with the chance to walk among the picturesque sand dunes. After dinner enjoy the chance of some stargazing and see firsthand why Death Valley is an officially recognized “Gold Tier” Dark Sky Park. *Oasis at Death Valley (B,L,D)*

Wednesday, March 15
Zabriskie Point, Titus Canyon & Ubehebe Crater
Wake just before dawn and transfer to Zabriskie Point to watch as the sunlight slowly illuminates the surrounding mountains. After breakfast, explore the Titus Canyon narrows and hike among the stratifications of rock marking millions of years of geological history. The opening of the canyon affords the best chance to see a chuckwalla in its natural habitat. These sizable lizards have evolved to inflate their bodies to wedge themselves in the cracks in the rock they live in to deter predators. Marvel at Ubehebe Crater, site of a massive volcanic explosion leaving a pit in the earth over 500 feet deep and a half-mile across. If you feel up to it, enjoy the experience of walking the 2-mile loop around the rim of the crater. *Oasis at Death Valley (B,L)*

Thursday, March 16
Golden Canyon & Artist’s Palette
After breakfast, hike through the multi-hued walls of Golden Canyon toward the Red Cathedral with the option to continue for a longer hike through Gower Gulch. Enjoy a free afternoon. This evening enjoy the sunset at Artist’s Palette before our farewell dinner. *Oasis at Death Valley (B,D)*

Friday, March 17
Devil’s Golf Course, Badwater, Shoreline Butte, Ashford Mill & Las Vegas
As we make our way out of the Park we make several stops. Visit Devils’ Golf Course to admire the rugged salt formations, and Badwater Salt Flats which at 282 feet below sea level, this salt flat is the lowest place in North America and the eighth lowest place on Earth. The dramatic depth is enhanced by the backdrop of the Panamint Range rising over 11,000 feet. Stop at Shoreline Butte, so called as the horizontal lines in its rock face testify to erosion of the waters of prehistoric Lake Manly that filled Death Valley tens of thousands of years ago. Stop at Ashford Mill ruins, a historic site where gold ore was processed a hundred years ago. Learn about the mill and search for spring wildflowers. Enjoy a picnic before heading back to Las Vegas arriving by 4:00 p.m. Please book your return flights for 6:00 pm or later. *(B,L)*
**Trip Details**

**Dates:** March 12-17, 2023

**Group Size:** Minimum 8, maximum 16 (not including staff)

**Cost:** $3,695 per person, double occupancy; $4,510, single occupancy.

We are staying in deluxe rooms at the Oasis at Death Valley Ranch. If you would like to upgrade to the Inn, the charges are: $4,435 per person, double occupancy; $5,990 single occupancy.

**Included:** 1 night at the Hyatt Place, Las Vegas; 4 nights at the Oasis at Death Valley Ranch; daily breakfast (5) at the hotels, 4 lunches and 4 dinners; welcome and farewell dinners with beer and wine; round-trip transfers from Las Vegas Airport to Death Valley National Park; tours, entrances, and events as specified in the itinerary; mini-bus transportation for all excursions; gratuities for guides, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff; services of a professional Tour Manager and Guide; Club host to assist you throughout the program (with a minimum of 15 travelers); the camaraderie of the Club’s travelers.

**Not Included:** Air transportation to and from Las Vegas, Nevada; meals and beverages other than those specified as included; optional excursions and other activities done independently; trip cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance; personal items such as e-mail, telephone and fax calls, souvenirs, laundry and gratuities for non-group services.

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**What to Expect**

Average temperatures during this time range from 53-80°. Our transportation around the park is by vans. Travelers should be in active good health to participate in this trip. Though walks are not too strenuous, they are over uneven terrain and may require the use of hands and feet to climb over obstructions. Our longest hike is about 2 miles, with approximately 500 feet in elevation gain. Almost all walks are “out and back” so participants can go as far as they like, and then wait for the group to return. For those who would like more active hiking, we can help arrange that during your free time.

**The Oasis at Death Valley Ranch**

The Oasis Resort is situated in a lush oasis surrounded by the vast and arid desert of Death Valley National Park, California. The resort has two properties – the Ranch and the Inn. We have reserved deluxe rooms at the Ranch, which has been welcoming guests since 1933. The property has a gift shop, saloon, a spring-fed swimming pool, tennis courts, a children’s playground, and the National Park Service Visitor's Center is just a stone’s throw away. One mile away is the 4-diamond Inn. Upgrades to the Inn are available.

**Tour Leader & Guide, Fred Ackerman**

The son of a National Park Ranger, Fred was born and raised in National Parks and spent much of his childhood exploring the great outdoors. A graduate of MIT, he has traveled in six continents, and lived and worked in four of them. After working some years in a promising management consulting career, Fred decided to follow his passion for travel and outdoor adventure. He entered the adventure travel industry over 20 years ago to design and lead trips throughout the US, Europe and Latin America. In 2002 he founded his own tour company.

Death Valley has a special significance to him having been born when his family lived there and having spent the first two years of his life in park service housing at Furnace Creek (the former name of the Oasis at Death Valley). The park is also the first place he brought guests after starting Black Sheep Adventures. This trip has been carefully crafted by him with almost 20 years of guiding experience in the region. Fred is eager to share the beauty of this unique natural desert landscape and the stories of its quirky human history with you.
### Reservation Form March 12-17, 2023

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#### SINGLE TRAVELERS ONLY:
If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate: _____ I plan to share accommodations with ____________________________
OR _____ I wish to have single accommodations OR _____ I’d like to know about possible roommates. I am a **smoker / nonsmoker** (circle one).

#### PAYMENT:
Here is my deposit of $_________ ($500 per person) for _____ place(s).

_____ Please upgrade me/us to the Inn.

_____ Enclosed is my check (make payable to *Black Sheep Adventures, Inc.*) OR

_____ Charge my deposit to my ____ Visa ____ MasterCard ____ AMEX ____ Discover

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We require membership to The Commonwealth Club to travel with us. Please check one of the following options:

_____ I am a current member of The Commonwealth Club.

_____ Please renew my membership with the credit card information provided here.

_____ I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.

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**Terms & Conditions**

**ELIGIBILITY:**
We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. People who live outside of the Bay Area may purchase a national membership. To learn about membership types and to purchase a membership, visit commonwealthclub.org/membership or call (415) 597-6720.

**DEPOSIT & PAYMENTS:**
To make a reservation, a deposit of $500 per person is required by check or credit card. Please mail your check (payable to "Black Sheep Adventures, Inc.") or charge instructions, with your completed reservation form to the address on the reservation form. You may also fax your reservation form or call our office or call (415) 597-6720. Final payment is due no later than December 12, 2019.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:**
Your deposit and payments are refundable, less the following cancel fees:
- 91+ days prior to trip start date, deposit refundable
- 61-90 days prior to trip start, $500 deposit
- 0-60 days prior to trip start, No refund

We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you. Tour can also be canceled due to low enrollment. Neither CWC nor Black Sheep Adventures accepts liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets purchased in conjunction with the tour.

**MEDICAL INFORMATION:**
Participation in this program requires that you be in good health. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure. Vaccination for COVID-19 is required.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**
The Commonwealth Club of California and our ground operators and suppliers act only as agents for the travelers with respect to transportation and arrangements, and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties.

The Commonwealth Club of California accepts no liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour.

CST: 2096889-40

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR DEPOSIT TO:**
Commonwealth Club Travel,
110 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94105
You may also fax the form to 415.597.6729