

Join us... for a spectacular Spring Adventure! April 1-7, 2015



BETCHART  
EXPEDITIONS Inc.

**Sigma Xi & ACS Expeditions  
AAAS Travels**

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014



**FIRST CLASS**

*Explore Death Valley,  
the Valley of Fire  
& Hoover Dam  
April 1-7, 2015*



# DEATH VALLEY

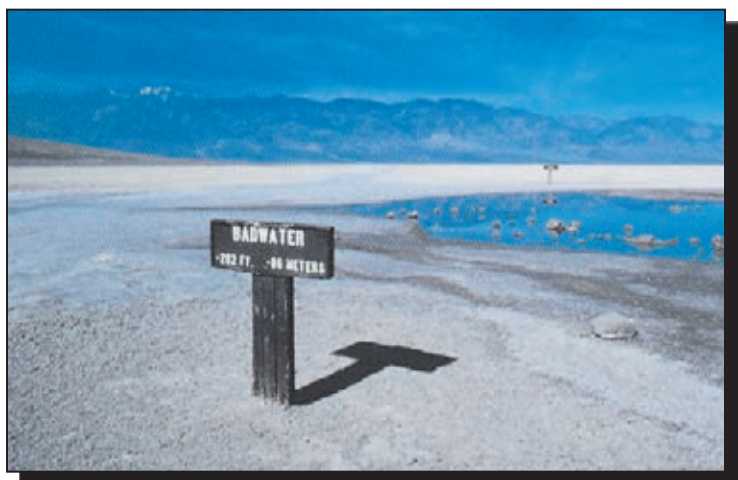
**the Valley of Fire  
& Hoover Dam**

**April 1-7, 2015**

*A Wonderful Spring Adventure!*

Explore some of the most Dramatic  
Landscapes in the West!

Enjoy Spring Wildflowers,  
Historic Sites & More!



Dear Friends:

Join us!... as we explore California's desert paradise, Death Valley and the Valley of Fire, Nevada's premiere state park, on a delightful spring adventure!

A land of majestic vistas and every-changing colors, Death Valley has the lowest point in the United States at 282 feet below sea level and snow-capped peaks which soar more than 11,000 feet overhead. It offers the pristine tranquility of wilderness and expansive scenery, as well as an historic oasis.

History beckons at every corner, allowing us to relive the days of the 49'er gold seekers and prospectors. See historic Scotty's Castle and an immense petroglyph field. Tour Hoover Dam and peer at the Colorado River far below!

Led by Dr. Andre Potochnik, an excellent geologist and naturalist, enjoy the great beauty of these intriguing landscapes while you learn about adaptations of plants and animals to life in the desert, the geologic heritage, and man's attempts at making a living in this vast desert paradise!

Join us this spring! And discover awesome vistas, wildflowers, a lunar eclipse & more!

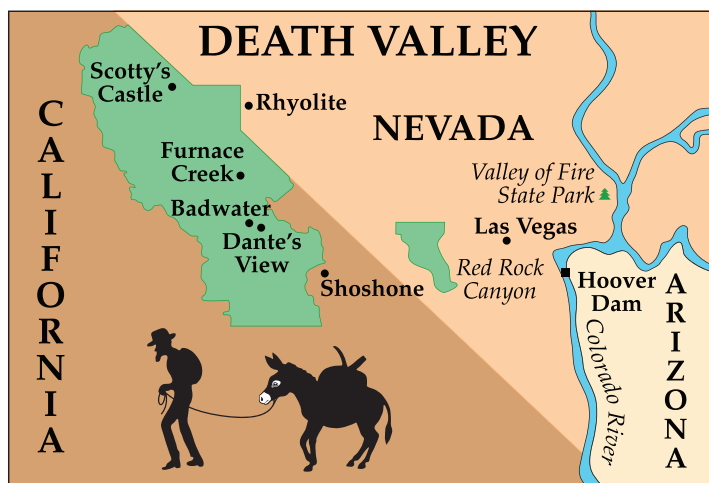
Sincerely,

*Bob Nansen*

Robert P. Nansen

Naturalist

for AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi & ACS Expeditions





# ITINERARY

## Day 1 – Home to Las Vegas

Fly from home to Las Vegas and transfer on your own to our *Hotel*. Enjoy a welcome dinner and trip orientation. D

## Day 2 – Valley of Fire

Today we will explore the Valley of Fire, Nevada's first state park. Here we will discover 3,000-year-old petroglyphs carved in sandstone and have breathtaking views of maroon-colored rock formations created during the age of the dinosaurs. We will explore park trails to discover spring wildflowers and hear birds, as we learn about the natural heritage of the area. We will take the 1 1/2 mile walk to the Fire Wave, one of the most dramatic rock formations and have a picnic lunch. In the afternoon, we will take the Mouse's Tank Trail to observe the hundreds of petroglyphs (Elephant Rock is pictured at the left). B,L

## Day 3 – Hoover Dam & Red Rock Canyon to Shoshone & Death Valley

This morning we will depart for Hoover Dam, once known as Boulder Dam. This spectacular arch dam, which is so critical to water storage and power generation in the west, is just east of Las Vegas on the Black Canyon of the Colorado River at the Arizona/Nevada border. We will tour the powerplant and learn about the construction and operation of this massive structure! We will then depart for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area for a picnic lunch. Here, we will drive along the 13-mile scenic drive and enjoy one of the walking trails.

We will then head to Death Valley and Badwater, the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere at 282 feet below sea level. We will drive through the ragged rock-salt pinnacles of Devil's Golf Course and look for coyotes, roadrunners, and spring wildflowers. Continue to *Furnace Creek Ranch (2 nights)*. Relax, take a swim, or visit the outdoor displays at the Borax Museum and Death Valley National Park Visitor Center. There will be a Total Lunar Eclipse tonight (for anyone who wants to awaken just before 3 am when Totality begins!). B,L

## Day 4 – Death Valley National Park

We will begin the day at Zabriskie Point, walking through a landscape bathed in early morning light. Below stretch ancient lakebeds, now up-ended into a mass of sharply eroded yellow mudhills, changing shape and color with the angle of the sun. Continue to Dante's View at 5,400 feet, which provides an even more impressive view from the salt flats to the 11,000 foot Panamint Mountains. Afternoon at leisure. In late afternoon, walk along Salt Creek, an oasis teeming with desert pupfish and also a resting ground for migrating birdlife. L,D

## Day 5 – Rhyolite Ghost Town & Titus Canyon

We will depart this morning for the ghost town of Rhyolite, situated near the eastern edge of Death Valley in the Bullfrog Hills. The town sprang up in 1905 as gold fever brought thousands of prospectors. Industrialist Charles Schwab bought the Montgomery Shoshone Mine in 1906 and brought piped water, electric lights, and railroad transportation to the area. Rhyolite's bonanza times were short lived, however, and by 1911 the mine had closed and it became a ghost town. We will also explore spectacular Titus Canyon which descends through the Amargosa Range into Death Valley. Here the





brightly colored Cenozoic rocks provide some of the valley's most spectacular scenes, with glorious pockets of wildflowers in the side canyons. Arrive at *Stove Pipe Wells* (2 nights). L

### Day 6 – Sand Dunes & Scotty's Castle

We will take a morning walk on the fabulous sand dunes of Death Valley, where fresh tracks reveal the night's animal visitors. We will then visit Ubehebe Crater (Shoshone for "basket"), the largest and youngest of a group of volcanoes in northern Death Valley. We will tour Scotty's Castle, a richly decorated mansion that was designed as a vacation retreat in the 1920's and is nestled among cottonwoods near the mouth of Grapevine Canyon, a favorite haunt of orioles and warblers. Farewell dinner in celebration of our adventure! L,D

### Day 7 – 20-Mule-Team Canyon & Home

Visit 20-Mule-Team Canyon this morning, a kaleidoscope of broken layers and brilliant colors, extending from the valley floor to the crest of the Black Mountains. Take photographs and bid farewell to the wonders of Death Valley. Noon arrival at Las Vegas Airport for flights home.

## Death Valley National Park

Death Valley National Park is a land of extremes. It is the hottest, driest, and lowest place in the United States. Death Valley includes three million acres of wilderness with superb examples of spring wildflowers. Walk the colorful sand dunes and water-carved slot canyons with multi-colored rock layers and snow-capped mountains overhead. Death Valley holds a place in history with tales of lost gold mines, pioneers and prospectors, and outlandish characters drawn to this unique place in the west!

## COSTS & CONDITIONS

**Expedition Fee:** \$2,795 per person from Las Vegas, Nevada.

**What to Expect:** This expedition is planned for the travel and outdoor enthusiast who would enjoy exploring the awesome desert paradise of Death Valley National Park and the Valley of Fire with an excellent geologist/naturalist leader. Travel is by 15-passenger vans or motorcoach with daily outings on foot of 1 to 2 miles at a leisurely pace. Optional hikes and night walks may occur. This trip is planned for travelers with an appetite for adventure who enjoy exploring spectacular desert scenery and historic and natural points of interest in the beauty of spring. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

**Expedition Fee Includes:** Land transport; accommodations twin share with bath in comfortable lodges in Death Valley, and a first class hotel in Las Vegas; meals as indicated; entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

**Expedition Fee Does Not Include:** Air fare to Las Vegas and return; airport transfers; some meals; gratuity to leaders; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, snacks, or personal insurance.

**Air Fare & Airline Ticketing:** You should arrive in Las Vegas by 4:00 p.m. on April 1 and depart after 2:00 p.m. on April 7.

**Single Accommodations:** Singles are available for \$595. If you do not have a roommate or we cannot assign one, you must pay the extra cost of a single.

**Reservations, Deposits, Payments:** Please mail a deposit of \$500 per person with the completed reservation form. The balance is due 60 days before departure.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit for the expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place is resold; then only the \$100 handling fee applies. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

**Responsibility:** Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, the American Chemical Society (ACS), and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. 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, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

## QUESTIONS?

Call Debbie Templeton or Bob Nansen, Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
(800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910

## RESERVATIONS

#1380

**YES!** I/We want to join the **Death Valley & Valley of Fire Trip, April 1-7, 2015**, offered by **AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi & ACS Expeditions**. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (circle): AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

\_\_\_\_ Twin \_\_\_\_ Single Twin Share: \_\_\_\_ with a friend or  
\_\_\_\_ Nonsmoker \_\_\_\_ Smoker \_\_\_\_ assign a roommate

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail To: Death Valley 2015, Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, California 95014-5435**