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Our Cover features Death Valley's famed Scotty's Castle, a seeming mirage built in the 1920s in the style of Spanish architecture. The famous Death Valley Scotty told many tall tales here. Wealthy Chicago businessman Albert Johnson, who funded construction of the Castle, took a liking to the old "prospector" and his stories, and built him a room of his own where his trademark red neckties still hang. Scotty's Castle is not a "castle" in the usual sense of the word; it simply must be seen to be believed.

Tours lasting approximately 50 minutes of the main house are conducted daily 365 days a year.
Each year Death Valley welcomes over a million American and International visitors who marvel at this, the nation’s largest National Park in the lower 48 states. Travelers are greeted with sweeping views and sun drenched landscapes, the sheer scope of Death Valleys spectacular natural wonders will amaze and ah vacationers! When sun sets, the traveler is presented with an incredibly brilliant night sky featuring our own Milky Way.

Explore Death Valley and the surprising oasis communities that surround it. Just west of the park border you will find the Mt Whitney (Elevation 14,494’) the highest mountain in the continental United States and on the east the thriving Pahrump Valley Winery.

BORAX WORKS 20 MULE WAGON TRAIN

MESQUITE FLAT SAND DUNES
TECOPA HOT SPRINGS

China Ranch/Amargosa Canyon

Five miles south from Shoshone heading towards Baker you will want to take the turn off and travel another 3 miles to visit Tecopa Hot Springs. Originally named Yaga, Tecopa Hot Springs boasted the largest Native settlement in the region because of its several natural advantages: natural hot springs, abundant wildlife and fertile wetlands, and proximity to a series of trading routes later known as The Old Spanish Trail. These advantages soon attracted an increasing number of hard-rock mining communities, requiring the efforts of Paiute Pakwinavi Tecopa to negotiate a peace in which all parties could share in the use and enjoyment of the hot springs.

In 1908, spurred by the mining boom, the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad built the Tecopa station, whose span runs through the spectacular Amargosa Canyon.

Today’s visitor can marvel at the same beauty that caught the eye of yesterday’s miner: desert landscapes, vivid sunsets, and healing mineral waters. In spring and fall, vast flocks of migratory birds avail themselves of the marshes and the surrounding canyons, and particularly of Grimes Lake, a protected wetland and a great birding locale. Admire the spring wildflowers, bicycle along the many scenic trails, get a birds-eye view while gliding through the crisp desert air, or hike in the Kingstons, Tecopa, Ibex, or Sheephead mountains and wilderness areas: whatever your pursuit, active or contemplative, Tecopa Hot Springs affords the leisure.

Perhaps most unique about Tecopa are the reported healing qualities of the hot mineral water and local clay. Many people report that soaking in these silty waters releases and melts away aches and pain. Tecopa Hot Springs Massage offers healing work utilizing a personalized variety of healing modalities (www.tecopahotspringsmassage.com)

Accommodations include lodging and camping and a variety of hot springing options at the Tecopa Hot Springs Resort (www.tecopahotsprings.org) DeLights Hot Springs Resort (www.delightshotspringsresort.com) Petersen’s Tecopa Palms RV Park and the County run campground and pools; the Inyo County campground, with separate bathhouses for men and women; and the Poo-Ha-Bah Native Healing Center (www.poohabah.org). Amenities there are to suit the visitor’s needs and

Continued on page 8
Continued from page 7
satisfy the artist’s palette.
Just a few miles from Tecopa Hot Springs on the Old Spanish Trail Hwy you will turn right on Furnace Creek Road to China Ranch (www.chinaranch.com). China Ranch is a family-owned date ranch offering visitors an experience as diverse and exciting as its origins. Antonio Armijo, the first European visitor to the area, found it already inhabited by Shoshone and Paiute Indians when he arrived in 1830. The trail he established, known as the Old Spanish Trail, was a main thoroughfare at the time for raiders, traders, and settlers; it remains passable today and is easily accessible from the Ranch.

Guided tours of the area accentuate the excitement with an educational excursion on geology, botany, birds, and the history of early man in the environs. Before setting out on trail or tour, or after a good day’s hike, enjoy the Ranch’s homegrown dates, date nut breads, or muffins and cookies. And for a memento of your visit, browse our shop of fine, carefully hand-crafted gifts. An easy hike about 11/4 miles west of the China Ranch Bakery and Gift Shop brings you to the old T & you arrive at Amargosa River Canyon, voted by Congress in 2009 America’s first Wild and Scenic River in the desert. The spectacular Amargosa Canyon was carved between one half to one million years ago, when water escaped from Lake Tecopa to sculpt the scenic ravine. The river that shares the Amargosa name has sustained periodic human habitations for 8,000 years. So productive are its life-sustaining waters that the River Valley serves as a refuge for an abundance of wildlife, some of which is protected under the Endangered Species Act. Even as the Amargosa River was a life-line of nourishment for settlers and visitors, so was the Old Spanish Trail which runs beside it a life-line, from 1830 to 1850, of trade and passage between Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the area of Los Angeles, California. Its location and situation made the Amargosa Canyon a critical supply depot along the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad - yet another life-line of the area, this used to haul mine ore.

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P.O. Box 25, Tecopa, California 92389 • www.tecopahotsprings.org

EARLY CHINA RANCH DELIVERY TRUCK

EARLY CHINA RANCH DELIVERY TRUCK
Shoshone is an oasis on the edge of Death Valley

Since the turn of the 20th century it has been known as a welcome destination for visitors to the region. In 1910 “Dad” Fairbanks established a boarding house and a store in Shoshone for the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad, newly built by Borax Smith to transport borax from the nearby mines to the markets. The town quickly became a thriving hub of commerce and social life for the surrounding area. Prospectors and others, who were arriving daily, could buy their supplies before setting out to stake their claim in Death Valley, an area that was highly mineralized.

One hopeful prospector attracted another and before long many called Shoshone their home.

Over the years Shoshone has continued to be a hub of commerce and social life for visitors and residents alike. It is an ideal location as a base camp while exploring the beauty of the Amargosa and Death Valley regions. The terrain surrounding Shoshone often has been called “world class geology”.

The Resting Springs range to the east of Shoshone is strikingly beautiful because of its brightly colored stripes of red, pink, blue, tan and green and the Nopahs, consisting of Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian rocks, contain some of the oldest forms of life on the planet.

The Ibex Hills to the west, composed of volcanic and metamorphic rock are a brilliant jumble of red, pink, tan and charcoal formations. All of these mountain ranges contain perennial springs they are inhabited by bighorn sheep, kit foxes, bobcats, golden eagles and prairie falcons.

The Amargosa River, often called the crown jewel of the Mojave Desert, is also breathtaking feature of the Amargosa and Death Valley terrain. It flows through Shoshone as it makes its way from Beatty, Nevada to the floor of Death Valley. During its journey it meanders underground popping up sporadically to form spectacular oasis supporting a rich variety of plant and animal life, as it does in Shoshone. Since these oasis are isolated from one another each provides unique habitats for species found nowhere else in the world.

Since Shoshone is one of these oasis it is a haven for birders and is home to several endangered species such as the Vermillion Flycatcher and the Virginia Warbler also make Shoshone their home during migration.

Famous Adventurers and Mining Promoters of the Death Valley and Amargosa Region

One hopeful prospector attracted another and before long many of the famous adventurers and mining promoters who went to Death Valley, such as (left to right) Sir Harry Oakes, Death Valley Scotty, Shorty Harris and Siberian Red called Shoshone their home.
Continued from page 13

famous as a meeting place
for locals and visitors alike. Just
down the road from the Crow-
tive American jewelry, gifts, gas,
propane, lotto tickets and much
more. The RV Park also located
in the Village offers 26 full hook-
ups sites and additional tent or
dry RV sites. There are also hot
showers and laundry facilities
available. The additional public
services located in the Village
are the Death Valley Health
Clinic, the Death Valley Unified
School District, the US Post Of-
cice, a Sheriff’s substation, the
Amargosa Conservancy and the
Shoshone Museum. These are
just some of the amenities found
in Shoshone Village.

Shoshone Village, where the
adventure begins! Come visit us!

The bar Café and Saloon is the C’est
Si Bon Café, which serves an
array of gourmet offerings in an
eclectic setting. Just next door is
the Shoshone Eco Tourism.

As the visitor strolls back to
the Shoshone Inn he will find the

Charles Brown General Store
and Gift Shop which provides
groceries, supplies, exquisite Na-
Continued from page 13

The Death Valley Natural History Associa-
tion is a non-profit educational organiza-
tion dedicated to the preservation and
interpretation of the natural and cultural history
of the Death Valley area in cooperation with our
government partners.

For anyone who comes into the Furnace
Creek Visitor Center, the bookstore in the lobby
looks a lot like most other retail stores you might
find in a National Park. But if you look close you
will find some important differences.

First there are no shot glasses or scorpion pa-
perweights. Second, everything in the store helps
to educate you about Death Valley National
Park from the books to t-shirts every item we sell
is approved by the Park Service for its educa-
tional value before we can sell it and last but not
least every dollar spent in our stores stays in the
park to help support education, interpretation,
and scientific programs in the park. In the 1930’s
the San Jose State University’s Field Studies Pro-
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Education programs, research, preservation.

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Facility to form an organization to produce those much needed publications. On May 12, 1954 the National Park Service officially designated the Death Valley Natural History Association as a cooperating association.

Since 1954 the Death Valley Natural History Association has given more than two million dollars in aid back to Death Valley National Park. We have published a number of books and other items that you can find in any of our four bookstores. We have worked diligently to support park programs. Like the All Taxa Biological Inventory, a program to catalog every living creature in the park so that resource decisions can be made with the most up to date science available, internships throughout the park to assist with visitor services and curatorial programs. Death Valley ROCKS (Recreation Outdoors Campaign for Kids thru Study) brings kids from the Los Angeles and Las Vegas areas for an overnight outdoor educational experience. For most of these kids it is the first time they have ever seen the stars of the night sky or slept in a tent.

For more information on how you can help call us at 800-478-8564 or www.dvnha.org.
ENTERING DEATH VALLEY

Gateways into Death Valley National Park

There are seven paved road entrances into Death Valley National Park, each from a different point on the compass: from the west Lone Pine and Olancha; the south Ridgecrest; the east Shoshone, Death Valley junction via Pahrump, NV and Las Vegas; and from the north Beatty and Scotty’s Junction.

On Highway 395 you will find the perfect gateway to Death Valley National Park, Lone Pine, California. A day or two in Lone Pine is the best way to begin your visit to Death Valley National Park. Tucked snugly at the base of Mt. Whitney, Lone Pine is located in the southern Owens Valley. With many places to stay and eat, the town has much to offer the casual visitor, before challenging Death Valley National Park.

The Alabama Hills, located a few miles west on Whitney Portal road is both a photographer’s dream location and an attraction for film buffs who want to see where John Wayne worked eleven times, where Humphrey Bogart faced death in High Sierra and where recently both Ironman and Transformers shots were made. Fully 400 movies shot scenes there in the famous rocks. Be sure to schedule time at the Beverly and Jim Rogers Museum of Lone Pine Film History which has an excellent 15 minute orientation film on the history of movie making locally.

To enter Death Valley National Park from Olancha exit Highway 395 at Highway 190. Highway 190 travels across Death Valley and ends at Death Valley Junction.

Ridgecrest, California is the southern entrance to Death Valley National Park and is located just off Hwy 395 and west of the Sierra Nevada range on Highway 178. Ridgecrest boasts of more than a dozen hotels and enjoys the fare of 50 restaurants. The U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology at China Lake, free and open to the public Mondays through Saturdays, displays actual missiles, rockets and other armaments.

Continued on Page 18
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and/or tested at China Lake. Balsam Street has gift shops and West Ridgecrest Boulevard delights residents and tourists alike with books, antiques, collectibles, consignment finds and My Enchanted Cottage & Tea Rooms.

In addition to its art gallery, the Maturango Museum holds special events such as Octo-

ber’s Open Studio Tours when local artists join forces for an unparalleled invitation to meet them in their studios. In April, the museum’s annual indoor wildflower show complements the arts, crafts, performers, floral bonanza and guided tours of the Ridgecrest Desert Wildflower Festival. If favored with the right weather conditions the preceding winter, the canyons and foothills burst with color in the spring from the Indian Wells Canyon to (traveling north) Short Canyon, Grapevine Canyon, Sand Canyon and 9-Mile Canyon.

To enter Death Valley National Park take Highway 178 east, this will take you through China Lake Naval Weapons Center, the city of Trona an on into Death Valley. The northern most entrance into Death Valley is at Scotty’s Junction, Nevada, located where Highways 95 and 267 meet. It is just 26 miles from the junction to Scotty’s Castle. The other northern entrance to Death Valley is Beatty, Nevada, it’s 35 miles south of Scotty’s Junction on Highway 95. Leave Beatty on Highway 374 and just 7 miles away is the entrance to Death Valley National Park border and 40 minutes from Furnace Creek. This small rural community has everything the desert visitor needs, with over 340 rooms and 108 RV sites, all at reasonable prices.

Nestled at the end of Oasis Valley, and near the head of the Amargosa River, Beatty is a welcome respite from the surrounding desert for human and animal alike, making Beatty a prime birding and wildlife viewing area. Beatty offers nearly endless opportunities, including miles of roads that meander through the Bullfrog Mining District and into Death Valley, for those with high-clearance and four-wheel drive. For those looking for a more cultured experience, Beatty offers a fine museum, unique antique shops, eclectic gift shops, an art gallery, casino, restaurants, and is home to Bailey’s Hot Springs where you can soak your worries away.

Travelers on Interstate highway 15 will exit at Baker and travel north on highway 127 to Shoshone (see Shoshone on page 12). Less than a mile north of Shoshone one turns left on highway 178 which will eventually end at Badwater Road. Visitors wishing not to enter Death Valley at Shoshone will continue north to Death Valley Junction and enter Death Valley National Park on highway 190. Most travelers entering through Death Valley Junction have traveled through Pahrump, Nevada from Las Vegas.

In Pahrump stop and visit Continued on Page 20

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Pahrump Valley Museum & Historical Society and see what life was like in early Pahrump. Exhibits include early farming and mining equipment; early man (exploration and the Spanish Trail – 1776 to 1848); items from the cowboy and pioneer family lifestyles; Pahrump historical and political items; and Native American artifacts.

Pahrump offers excellent accommodations, RV Parks, casinos, recreation facilities and don’t forget to visit Pahrump Valley Winery & Symphony’s Restaurant and sample many of their fine wines.

There are other entrances into Death Valley National Park, all are dirt roads that require high clearance or 4-wheel drive vehicles, extreme caution should be taken traveling on them.

**Pahrump Museum & Historical Society**

Exhibits include early farming and mining equipment; early man (exploration and the Spanish Trail – 1776 to 1848); items from the cowboy and pioneer family lifestyles; Pahrump historical and political items; and Native American artifacts.

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