

DEATH VALLEY - AMARGOSA VALLEY

PHOTOGRAPHERS' WINTER ESCAPE TO THE DESERT

(DRAFT #2, 8-30-05)

FINAL dates: Wed Nov 30 – Tue Dec 6

First 2 days in Death Valley at **Stovepipe Wells** - \$83 (\$92.27 with tax) to \$103 (\$112.27 with tax) per night

PHOTO OPS INCLUDE:

- Near Stovepipe Wells - Sand Dunes, Mosaic Canyon, Sand Stacks
- Between Stovepipe and Furnace Creek – Salt Creek (pupfish), Harmony Borax – historic mule trains
- Near Furnace Creek - Badwater, Zabriskie Point, 20-mule team canyon, Dante's view

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Visit National Park Service Archives - in Cow Creek, just N of Furnace Creek
- Dine at Furnace Creek Inn (first-class desert inn)

Remainder (4-5 days) in **Amargosa Valley** at Shoshone Inn (reduced rate of \$40 per room per night)

PHOTO OPS INCLUDE:

- Shoshone and Tecopa – typical desert towns with lots of old buildings
- Grimshaw wetlands (birds)
- Amargosa Canyon – 6 mi hike from Tecopa to China Ranch; may do less
- Dublin Gulch, Castles in Clay
- Ash Meadows Preserve (Devil's Hole, pupfish, Crystal Springs)
- Possible evening meetings to review digital images on LCD projector

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Dining in Shoshone at Crowbar Café (desert fare), Cest si Bon (Internet Café)
- Tecopa Hot Springs – mineral baths, snowbird refuge
- Death Valley Junction (world-famous Amargosa Opera possibly Sat night)
- China Ranch date farm and shop – interesting curios, relics, and date delicacies
- Meet local characters: miners, Native Americans
- World famous geologists: Lauren Wright, Benny Troxel

Travel: 2 choices

- **Fly** to Las Vegas - rent car - about 2 hours to Shoshone. 3.5 hours to Stovepipe Wells
- **Drive** from Bay Area – I-5 to Bakersfield, 58-E to Mohave, 395-N to Ridgecrest cutoff, east to 190 over pass into Stovepipe Wells - about 500 miles (9 hours)

Weather: may be cool especially in early morning, evening and night, likely sunny during day, always windy and maybe rainy. Although the days are shorter in the winter months, the sun is low, enabling a longer period of good light for capturing desert colors and shadows in the desert than just at either end of the day.

Facilities – limited; gas is at least \$.50 gal over Northern Calif. Prices; small general stores at Stovepipe Wells, Furnace Creek and Shoshone (those driving from Las Vegas can stop in Pahrump for 'big city' provisions); holiday (or post-holiday) shopping at Shoshone Museum gift shop

Dress – very casual, comfortable, layer for warmth and changing conditions, shoes that are sturdy & comfortable, prepare for rain

Day hikes available to scenic areas, mines, springs, etc

ALSO - Pre-trip Briefing – to be held about 2 weeks before at Naiman-Palmer home in Palo Alto.

Motel reservations: Please make your reservations ASAP.

(Individuals who wish to **share** a room (2 single beds) can reduce their room cost by half.)

Stovepipe Wells Village Motel:

“Holding a block of 15 rooms for us for the nights of Wed Nov 30 and Thu Dec 1. They are \$83 per night - do not have TV or potable water (drinking fountain outside) - water is OK for showers and tooth brushing, just has too many minerals to drink - the rooms with TV and drinking water tap in the room are about \$103 per night and he can upgrade to those if they like. All rooms have 2 beds - some with a double and twin, some with two twins. For a 3rd person in a room it is an extra \$10 per night. People can just call Stovepipe Wells 760-786-2387 and identify themselves as with the Palo Alto Camera Club and they can make the reservations. They are fully refundable up to 48 hours prior to the first day. If they have questions, they can ask for Richard.” (JP)

Shoshone Inn (Shoshone, CA):

Nights of Fri Dec 2 thru Mon Dec 5.

Special PACC rate of \$40./night. Rooms with 1 double or 2 twin beds.

Reservation phone number: 760-852-4335 (Manager – Lynn). Mention you are with the Palo Alto Camera Club.

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