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**Odyssey Productions
Pacific Studios Exhibit Design
Death Valley National Park**

Furnace Creek Visitor Center Orientation Interactive Map

Individual Locations

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Individual Locations

Attract screen:

Ten artful and engaging Death Valley images will rotate on the screen. The directive "Touch Screen to Explore" will fade in and out, moving around the screen.

When the screen is touched, the program begins.

Screen Left: A map of Death Valley appears on the left two-thirds of the screen. Dots highlight the selected 24 site/locations. When touched, the map zooms into the area. Each site/location has an adjacent "Information" icon.

Screen Right: A menu appears on the right one-third of the screen, listing the site/locations in alphabetical order, each accompanied by a thumbnail image. The menu also offers the option of "Half Day Excursions" and "Full Day Excursions."

Touching either an Information icon on the map or a thumbnail/location on the menu directs the visitor to a screen that shows a 30-second silent video and a paragraph of text highlighting the selection.

#1. Aguerberry Point

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

46 miles /74 kilometers

56 miles / 90 kilometers (per Bing Maps)

Road Conditions

paved road, gravel road last 6 mi. / 9.7 km.

Elevation

6,433 feet

Approximate Drive time to Aguerberry Point

1 hour, 5 minutes

Aguereberry Point in the Panamint Mountains offers a spectacular and diverse vista from a high vantagepoint.

The perspective includes the golden west side of Death Valley, the green oasis of Furnace Creek and the white salt flats of Badwater Basin.

The point is named for prospector and gold miner Pete Aguerberry. Along the gravel road approaching the point are a number of structures from his Eureka Mine and the remains of his mining camp.

At the site are cabins from 1941 and 1945, plus Pete's original 1907 two-room cabin, still containing a gas stove and refrigerator. He took visitors on a tour of what he called "The Great View" of Death Valley.

The point is the best place to photograph the valley in late afternoon with the sun at your back. The high elevation also means cooler temperatures on a hot day.

[142 words]

#2 Artist's Drive

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

9.5 miles / 15 kilometers

Road Conditions

paved road; vehicles restricted to 25 ft. (7.7 m) long

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Artist's Drive

15 minutes, plus ½ hour to drive the 9-mile road

Artist's Drive is a scenic one-way, 9-mile excursion off Badwater Drive. As it curves and climbs along the mountain front, the narrow route loops through steep alluvial fans and canyons in multi-hued hills of reds, yellows, browns, and purples.

Along the way, a turnout known as Artist's Palette overlooks a stretch of hillside composed of curved bands of vividly-colored pink, white and green clayish rock.

Ample parking allows for taking photographs – especially capturing the beauty of the late afternoon light -- or exploring on foot.

One of the most colorful parts of Death Valley National Park, the rock formations have yielded diatoms and microscopic plants indicative of environments from 10 to 30 million years ago.

The drive crosses several steep dry gullies, bends sharply, and dips up and down, roller-coaster-like, resulting in a top speed of only 15 mph.

[139 words]

#3 Badwater

Distance from Furnace Creek Visitor Center

17.6 miles / 28.3 kilometers (one way)

Road Conditions

paved road

Elevation

282 feet/ 85.5 meters below sea level

Approximate Driving Time to Badwater

35 minutes

Badwater Salt Flats is the lowest point in North America, at 282 feet (85.5 meters) *below* sea level. Mountains surround the flats, including a stunning view of 11,049 feet (3,368 m) Telescope Peak.

An easy stroll over a boardwalk and path leads out to a surreal landscape of vast salt flats—a shimmering crust of salt crystals, and pressure ridges formed where thick plates of salt crack and rise.

The crystals can look and sound like snow under your feet.

A shallow, salty pool is the remnant of an ancient 100-mile (1.60 km) long lake. Plant and animal life in the pool include soldier fly larvae and bronze water beetles. Ditch grass and salt-tolerant pickleweed are found along the shore.

Below sea level and without shade, the flats can get exceedingly hot in summer.

[134 words]

#4 Dante's View

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

25 miles, 40 kilometers

Road Conditions

paved road; vehicles restricted to 25 ft. (7.7 m) long

Elevation

5,475 feet / 1,669 meters

Approximate Drive time to Dante's View

45 minutes

Dante's View has been described as the most breathtaking overlook in the park. Nearly 6,000 feet above Death Valley, the mountaintop vista reveals a grand perspective of more than 200 square miles.

The difference in elevation visible – from the high point of Telescope Peak at 11,049 ft. (17,780 m.) to the low point of Badwater Salt Flats at -282 ft. (-85.5 m.) – is a staggering 11,331 ft. (3,455 m). It is the greatest topographic relief in the lower 48 states.

From here, there is a sense of the expansiveness of Death Valley and a spectacular look at its remarkable scenery.

The viewpoint was named by officials of the Pacific Coast Borax Company, reportedly inspired by the scorching valley's comparison to purgatory in Dante's *Inferno*.

The elevation provides a cooler respite on hot days and the point is especially popular at sunrise.

[141 words]

#5 Darwin Falls

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

60 miles / 96 kilometers

Road Conditions

paved; gravel road last 2.5 mi. (4 km)

Elevation

TBD feet / TBD meters

Approximate Drive time to Darwin Falls

1 hour, 15 minutes

Darwin Falls is a seemingly miraculous oasis in the desert – a year-round waterfall. The upper and lower falls combined plunge 80 ft. (24 m), making this the highest waterfall in the park. The flowing water is fed by springs from an underground watercourse.

Surrounded by thickets of willow trees and brilliant green moss, the falls converge in a small pool. (Swimming not permitted.)

The water and surprising greenery attract wildlife that would not ordinarily appear in the desert. In springtime, the area rings with the song of migrating birds.

There is no formal trail, but the falls can be reached by a mostly-level one-mile hike that involves some rock scrambling and several stream crossings.

The falls are named for Dr. Darwin French, the explorer who discovered them.

[127 words]

#6 Devil's Golf Course

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

13 miles / 21 kilometers (10 miles according to google maps)

Road Conditions

paved, gravel road last 1.3 mi. (.75 km)

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Devil's Golf Course

23 minutes

Devil's Golf Course is an immense area of rock salt, eroded by wind and rain into intricate and amazing jagged spires. Its name originated from the notion that only the devil could play golf on such rough terrain.

The hard, salt-encrusted pinnacles are as high as two feet and so sharp that they can cut through shoe leather. Imagine the early settlers in covered wagons crossing this unforgiving landscape during the 1849 California gold rush.

These unique shapes were formed when salt crystals – mostly the same sodium chloride as table salt – rose from the valley's underlying bed of mud.

Continually eroding by wind and rain, the salty spires grow very slowly, perhaps only an inch in 35 years.

For those who venture out and bend down to listen, fascinating popping and pinging sounds can be heard emanating from the salt crystals.

[141 words]

#7 Devil's Hole

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

43 miles / 60 kilometers

Road Conditions

TBD

Elevation

feet / meters

Approximate Drive time to Devil's Hole

50 minutes

Devil's Hole is a water-filled cavern that is habitat for the endangered Devil's Hole pupfish (*Cyprinodon diabolis*). The cavern is over 500 ft (152 m) deep and has never been mapped.

The water maintains a constant temperature (92°F, 33°C) and salinity. The one-inch pupfish forage and spawn on a shallow rock shelf near the surface, feeding on algae and diatoms.

The historic population of the Devil's Hole pupfish fluctuates between 100 to 200 in winter and 300 to 500 in late summer.

The 40-acre Devil's Hole area is part of the Ash Meadows complex, a detached unit of Death Valley National Park. The complex, a designated National Wildlife Refuge, is comprised of desert uplands and spring-fed oases.

It is also home to three other endangered fish and seven species of threatened plants.

[131 words]

#8 Father Crowley Vista

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

62 miles / 100 kilometers

Road Conditions

TBD

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Father Crowley Vista

1 hour, 10 minutes

Father Crowley Vista is a panoramic view of a the northern Panamint Valley, a landscape of dark lava flows and volcanic cinders.

Looking downward is a dramatic view of the 1000 ft (___m) deep Rainbow Canyon, a gash in the landscape with horizontal layers of red, brown and yellow rock.

This is the only overlook for seeing out to the Panamint Sand Dunes, since no roads reach closer to that sandy expanse.

The vista is named for Monsignor John J. Crowley, a Catholic priest, writer and poet dubbed the Desert Padre. Father Crowley traveled tens of thousands of miles across the desert to deliver masses in small towns, and wrote more than 200 columns in a series titled "Sage and Tumbleweed."

[121 words]

#9 Golden Canyon

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

3 miles / 5 kilometers

Road Conditions

paved road

Elevation

160 feet (49 meters) below sea level to 300 feet (91 meters) below sea level

Approximate Drive time to Golden Canyon

7 minutes

Golden Canyon lives up to its name. The canyon badlands within take on a golden glow, the brilliant yellow rocks spectacularly contrasted against the deep blue sky.

The picturesque narrow canyon's mudstones and siltstones represent the last few million years of Death Valley geologic history.

The Golden Canyon Interpretive Trail offers a number of hiking options.

Along the first mile (___k), ten trail markers coordinate with an interpretive pamphlet that tells about the area's geology. A loop trail continues for another mile (___k) on the route and ends at the base of the Red Cathedral, a brick-red wall that towers above the canyon.

A 4-mile (6.4 km) loop trail winds past Manly Beacon and down Gower Gulch with a spur trail leading to Zabriskie Point.

[124 words]

#10 Harmony Borax Works

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

2 miles / 3.2 kilometers

Road Conditions

Paved road

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Harmony Borax Works

4 minutes

Harmony Borax Works features adobe ruins and an original wagon that hint at this birthplace of the household cleaner, Twenty Mule Team Borax.

Borax was considered a rare commodity, transported by Marco Polo from Asia in the 13th century. But in the 1850s, rich lakebed deposits of the mineral were discovered in California and Nevada.

Death Valley's first commercial borax operation began in 1881, after borax was found on the playa at the mouth of Furnace Creek. Established by W.T. Coleman, Harmony Box Works operated at this site from 1883 to 1886.

Harmony played a central role in the opening of Death Valley and the subsequent popularity of the Furnace Creek area.

A short, paved trail with interpretive signs tells the story of the industrial activity that once occurred at this site.

[132 words]

#11 Lee Flat Joshua Trees

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

80 miles / 129 kilometers (Is this correct? It doesn't seem that far on the map)

Road Conditions

TBD

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Lee Flat Joshua Trees

1 hour, 30 minutes

Lee Flat is a mountain-rimmed valley that is the site of the finest stands of Joshua trees in the park. Driving along the gravel roads off Saline Valley Road provide good views in either direction.

This extensive forest is the short-leaved variety of Joshua tree, *Yucca brevifolia jaegeriana*. Tall and picturesque, the evergreen yuccas feature a broad crown of branches with dagger-like leaves. Mormon pioneers named the tree as a representation of the prophet Joshua praying with arms aloft, pointing to the Promised Land.

Explorer John Fremont wrote, "the Yucca trees gave a strange and singular appearance."

When about ten feet tall the Joshua begins to produce flowers. Although the trees do not bloom every year, when they appear the flowers are creamy and lily-like, followed by a large seedpods.

[130 words]

#12 Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

19 miles / 31 kilometers

Road Conditions

paved road

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes

23 minutes

Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes are the easiest dunes to access in the park. There are no trails crossing the 14 sprawling square miles (____ km) of sand – you are free to explore on foot wherever you please.

The shadowed ripples and stark, graceful curves are the result of sand blown by wind as individual grains are swept away and redeposited to shape this sinuous landscape.

Although the highest rises only about 100 feet, the dune field cover a vast area and exhibits three types of dunes: crescent, linear and star-shaped. Mesquite trees have created large hummocks that provide stable habitat for wildlife.

Mornings on the dunes mean cooler temperatures and the opportunity to see the tracks of nocturnal animals. On the east side of the flats is a rarely-visited area where you may find footprint-free dunes for photography.

[137 words]

#13 Mosaic Canyon

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

26 miles / 42 kilometers

Road Conditions

paved road; gravel road last 2 mi. (___ km)

Elevation

TBD feet / TBD meters

Approximate Drive time to Mosaic Canyon

28 minutes

Mosaic Canyon is a geologic art gallery. Rock fragments known as "brecchia" cemented together to create murals in the canyon walls. In other places, marble forms colorful, polished swirls of light and dark.

The entrance to the canyon appears deceptively ordinary, but in just a short distance the pathway dramatically narrows to a deep slot cut into the face of Tucki Mountain. The trail through the canyon continues for approximately 2 miles (___ km) before the route is blocked by a dry waterfall.

A hike through the canyon reveals alternating layers of small pebbles and large rocks. They can be read like chapters in a book, providing evidence of major flash floods and intense storms that scoured the walls.

Mosaic is an especially beautiful example of Death Valley's many canyons, and an easy walk for exploring 800-million-year-old rock formations.

[139 words]

#14 Natural Bridge

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

15 miles / 26 kilometers

Road Conditions

TBD ("the spur road is gravel and often rough")

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Natural Bridge

28 minutes

Natural Bridge Canyon features one of the few natural bridges found in the park. It is an impressive geologic feature, 35 feet thick and 35 feet high, connecting the walls of the canyon.

The canyon was sculpted by water, and the bridge spans a former riverbed. As flash floods coursed through the canyon, erosion undercut the rock, leaving the harder conglomerate.

A short walk up the stony streambed leads to the massive rock span. The trail continues for another 3 miles (___ km) up Little Bridge Canyon. Along the way are other interesting geologic features like vertical chutes, hanging canyons, dry waterfalls, and a fault that has resulted in a cave.

An interpretive panel at the trailhead explains the origin of the complex and dynamic geologic formations.

[127 words]

#15 Salt Creek

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

14 miles / 23 kilometers

Road Conditions

TBD

Elevation

210 feet / 64 meters below sea level

Approximate Drive time to Salt Creek

22 minutes

Salt Creek is an unexpected salty stream flowing on the desert valley floor. As with all desert oases, plants and animals congregate around its living-giving waters.

Even more surprising, the rare Salt Creek pupfish, *Cyprinodon Salinus*, has thrived here for thousands of years despite all odds. It is found nowhere else in the world.

The Salt Creek Trail is a wheelchair-accessible wooden boardwalk that follows the lower reaches of the creek for 0.8 mi (___ km). It loops through stands of pickleweed, a salt marsh meadow and past pools reflecting badland hills.

Springtime is the best season for viewing the inch-long pupfish. In summer this stretch dries up and in winter the fish are dormant.

In autumn cattle egret and other birds migrating south from summer in the northlands visit to feed and rest.

[134 words]

#16 Scotty's Castle

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

53 miles / 85 kilometers

Road Conditions

Paved road all except last ____

Elevation

3,100 feet / 945 meters

Approximate Drive time to Scotty's Castle

1 hour, 25 minutes

Scotty's Castle is a 1920s Spanish-style mansion where costumed park rangers conduct living history tours. The 33,000 square foot abode is richly furnished, including a 1,121-pipe theater organ.

The place is neither a castle nor was it owned by "Death Valley Scotty," prospector Walter Scott. He insisted he built the castle with money from secret gold mines. In truth, it was the vacation home of wealthy friends Albert and Bessie Johnson.

An underground tour takes a look at the historical technology, advanced for its time and remote desert location. It includes a demonstration of the Pelton Water Wheel used to furnish the castle with electricity.

Hidden in the green oasis of Grapevine Canyon, the villa – also known as Death Valley Ranch – offers a window into the wild west's life and times of the Roaring 20s and Depression 30s.

[138 words]

#17 Telescope Peak

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

69 miles / 111 kilometers

Road Conditions

TBD ("4WD is HIGHLY recommended/needed to drive the last 1.5 miles to the trailhead")

Elevation

11,049 feet / 3,368 meters

Approximate Drive time to Telescope Peak

1 hour, 42 minutes

Telescope Peak, at 11,049 feet (3,454 m) above sea level, is the highest point in Death Valley. It is named – not for a telescope – but for the great distances seen from its summit.

The mountain offers views for more than 100 miles in any direction, including Mount Whitney in California and Mount Charleston in Nevada.

The easy to follow 7-mile (___ km) trail to the summit is one of only two constructed backcountry trails in the park. It is a strenuous hike with an elevation gain of 2,916 feet (___ km).

Mountain mahogany and pinyon pine dominate the lower stretches of the trail. At higher elevations, the vegetation shifts to limber pines and the venerable bristlecone pines.

The rocky peak is punctuated with wind-sculpted trees and low-growing plants. The view from the summit is stunning.

[135 words to here]

#18 The Racetrack

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

83 miles / 134 kilometers Road Conditions

Road Conditions

TBD ("A high-clearance vehicle is needed to traverse the 27 miles of rough dirt road")

Elevation

3,714 feet / 1,132 meters

Approximate Drive time to the Racetrack

2 hours, 10 minutes

The Racetrack is a playa – a dry lakebed – best known for its mysterious sliding boulders.

One of Death Valley's most intriguing geological puzzles, the large rocks skid as far as 2,890 ft. (880 m) across the flat surface, yet no living person has witnessed these rocks move.

Grooved trails – some straight, some curvy – stretch behind many of the stones, indicating the furrows that the stones gouge as they slide.

Scientists have speculated that a rare combination of shallow rainfall combined with strong winds creates an extremely slippery surface that move the boulders across the slick mud.

The Grandstand area at the north end of the Racetrack is a large island outcrop of quartz monzonite that offers spectacular views of the playa and boulders.

[123 words]

#19 Titus Canyon

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

to start of one-way road 34 miles / 55 kilometers

Titus Canyon Road is 27 miles running east to west

Road Conditions

Paved to Titus Canyon Road. One-way road from east; this dirt road is rough, steep and narrow; often closed due to snow, mud, or wash outs; two-way section from west is graded dirt road.

Vehicle needed: Two-wheel-drive, high-clearance recommended; four-wheel-drive may be needed after adverse weather conditions. Two-way section from west OK for two-wheel-drive, standard clearance vehicles.

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Titus Canyon Road Entrance

41 minutes to entrance, plus 2 to 3 hours to drive Titus Canyon Road

Titus Canyon Road is the park's most popular backcountry drive, featuring dramatic mountains, colorful rock formations, petroglyphs, and a ghost town.

It was proclaimed by one 1926 enthusiast, "one of the grandest and most rugged drives on the American continent."

The adventurous road is rough, steep and narrow, winding through the canyon's deep gorge that cuts into the face of the Grapevine Mountains.

Abandoned buildings in the ghost town of Leadville are a legacy of the mining town that existed one year, a spectacular boom and bust from 1926 to 1927.

The ghost town of Rhyolite, near the east entrance to the road and outside the park, grew after the gold rush. Buildings that remain include the train depot, a restored Bottle House, walls of a three-story bank and part of the jail.

[133 words]

#20 Titus Canyon Narrows

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

34 miles / 55 kilometers

Road Conditions

Paved road, two-way section from west is graded dirt 2.6 miles / 4 kilometers

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Titus Canyon Narrows

43 minutes

Titus Canyon Narrows is the dramatic 1.5 mile (___ km) entrance to the canyon on the west end of Titus Canyon Road. While the slot canyon is narrow its entire length, in this stretch the walls squeeze down to less than 20 feet (___ km) apart in some places.

You can drive through the Narrows, but it is best appreciated on foot. Park at the canyon mouth and enter an area of shadows and echoes, cool breezes and towering cliffs.

The canyon's gorge cuts into the steep face of the Grapevine Mountains. Although the range is geologically recent, most of the rocks that make up the range are over half a billion years old.

The grey rocks lining the walls of the Narrows are ancient Cambrian-age limestone (570 – 505 million years old), formed when Death Valley was submerged beneath tropical seas.

[141 words]

#21 Twenty Mule Team Canyon

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

5.5 miles / 8.8 kilometers

Road Conditions

paved road to Twenty Mule Team Road which is a gravel road

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Twenty Mule Team Canyon

9 minutes, plus 6 minutes to drive to the end of the canyon

Twenty Mule Team Canyon is a 2.7 mi. (___ km) loop drive through stunning topography of otherworldly badlands, mudstone buttes, clay-lined gullies and sandy washes.

Turnouts along the way offer the opportunity to park and hike to the top of tall mudstone hills, providing panoramic views of Zabriskie Point and Death Valley beyond.

The long, windy route is situated in the old Monte Blanco mining district, once the site of borax mines. Horizontal passages called adits and dugouts are visible across the landscape.

Although the canyon is named in honor of the famous twenty-mule-team wagons that transported borax ore from the mines to the Harmony Borax Works, this trail was not part of the original freight route.

[117 words]

#22 Ubehebe Crater

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

56 miles / 90 kilometers

Road Conditions

paved road, last 6 miles / 9.5 meters gravel road

Elevation

TBD

Approximate Drive time to Ubehebe Crater

1 hour, 10 minutes

Ubehebe Crater is a large volcanic crater 600 feet deep (___ m) and half a mile across (___ km), evidence of a massive volcanic explosion 300 years ago.

Such craters are evidence of maar volcanoes, created by a steam and gas eruption when hot magma rises up from the depths, reaching ground water. The intense heat flashes the water into steam, which expands until the pressure is released in a tremendous explosion.

Cinder fields from these explosions cover much of the surrounding area.

Ubehebe Crater Trail is a 1.5 mile (___ km) round trip from the rim of the crater to its bottom. The route passes smaller craters, including Little Hebe, along with interesting examples of erosion.

It's unknown how the Paiute word "Ubehebe" became associated with the crater. The Timbisha Shoshone Indians called it "Tem-pin-tta- Wo'sah," meaning Coyote's Basket.

[142 words]

#23 Wildrose Charcoal Kilns

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

63 miles / 100 kilometers

Road Conditions

paved; gravel last 2 miles (3.3 kilometers)

Elevation

6,800 feet / 2,073 meters

Approximate Drive time to Wildrose Charcoal Kilns

1 hour, 25 minutes

Wildrose Charcoal Kilns are ten large beehive-shaped structures built in 1876 to provide fuel for processing silver and lead ore. They still smell of smoke today.

These 25-foot-high (____ m) masonry kilns are believed to be the best preserved in the west.

Built by the Modock Consolidated Mining Company to provide fuel for lead-silver mines west of Panamint Valley, the kilns may have only been in operation for three years. This short life may help to explain their remarkably good condition.

The labor force of wood-cutters, charcoal burners and haulers included American Indians, Chinese and Mexicans, likely lived nearby in a temporary settlement of tents or log cabins.

A trail from Wildrose Canyon to the town of Lookout was constructed so charcoal from the kilns could be transported to the smelters, likely by wagons and animal pack trains.

[138 words]

#24 Wildrose Peak

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

63 miles / 101 kilometers

Road Conditions

TBD

Elevation

9,064 feet / 2,763 meters

Approximate Drive time to Wildrose Peak

1 hour, 25 minutes

Wildrose Peak, at 9,064 feet (____ m), is the highest peak of the Panamint Mountains. The sweeping view from the summit includes the Panamints, Badwater Basin, and as far west as Mount Whitney and the high Sierra Nevada.

Wildrose Peak Trail offers a scenic but arduous 8.4 mile (___ km) hike from Charcoal Kilns to the summit, an elevation gain of 2,200 vertical feet (____ m).

The trail climbs steadily uphill through a pygmy forest of pine and juniper, a rare plant community in the park. Along the trail remain weathered stumps of trees cut more than 100 years ago to be made into charcoal at the kilns.

Emerging from the forest, the trail offers an increasingly expansive vista of the surrounding landscape. Wildrose is on the edge of a group of peaks that form the top of the Panamint mountain range.

[142 words]

#25 Zabriskie Point

Distance From Furnace Creek Visitor Center

4.5 miles / 7.2 kilometers

Road Conditions

Paved road

Elevation

Trailhead 656 feet / 200 meters

Approximate Drive time to Zabriskie Point

6 minutes

Zabriskie Point, surrounded by a maze of wildly eroded and vibrantly-colored badlands, is one of the park's most famous. Sunrise and sunset are especially popular viewing times.

The surrounding desert landscape looks forbidding, almost unearthly. Most of what little rain falls in Death Valley runs off the surface of the fine-grained mud and siltstone, so almost no vegetation survives. The result is bone-dry, finely-sculpted rock across an undulating terrain of gullies and mud hills.

Majestic mountain peaks form a backdrop to the vista, including the Funeral Mountains, Manley Beacon, and 11,049 ft (____ m) Telescope Peak, the highest point in Death Valley.

A footpath from Zabriskie Point leads to the Gower Gulch Loop and another branch veers to the Golden Canyon Trail.

The point is named for Christian Brevoort Zabriskie, a former official of the Pacific Coast Borax Company.

[140 words]