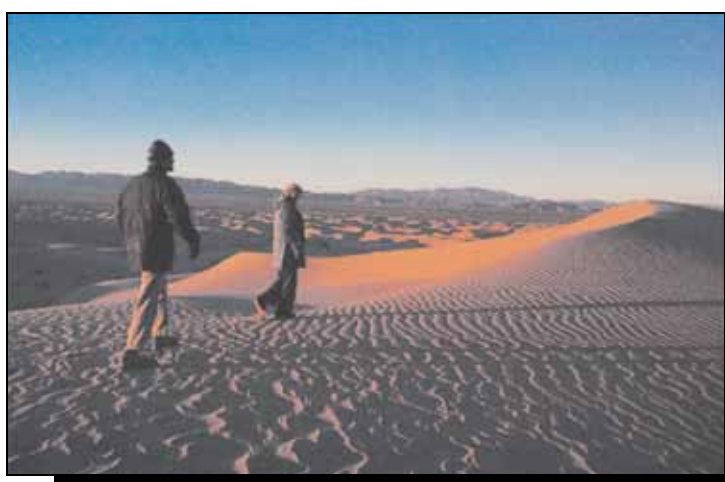
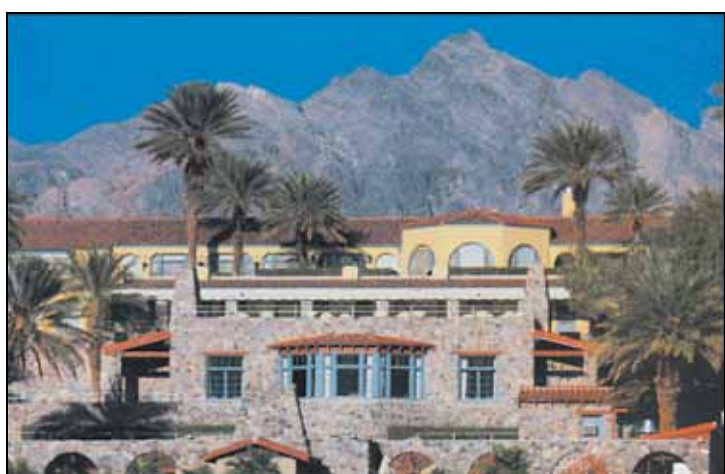
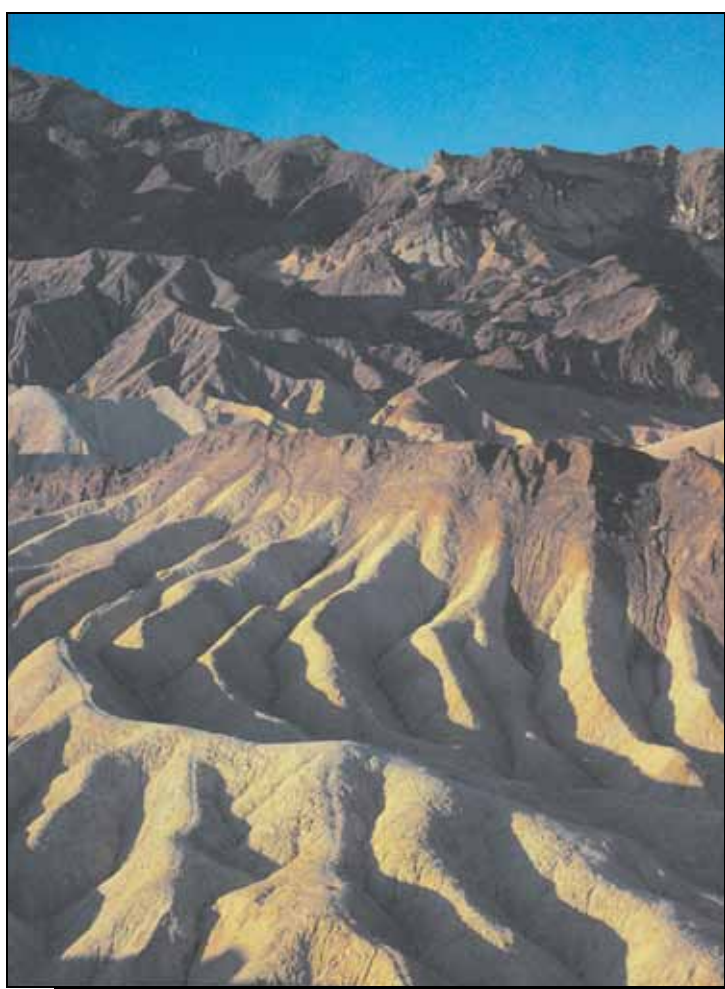
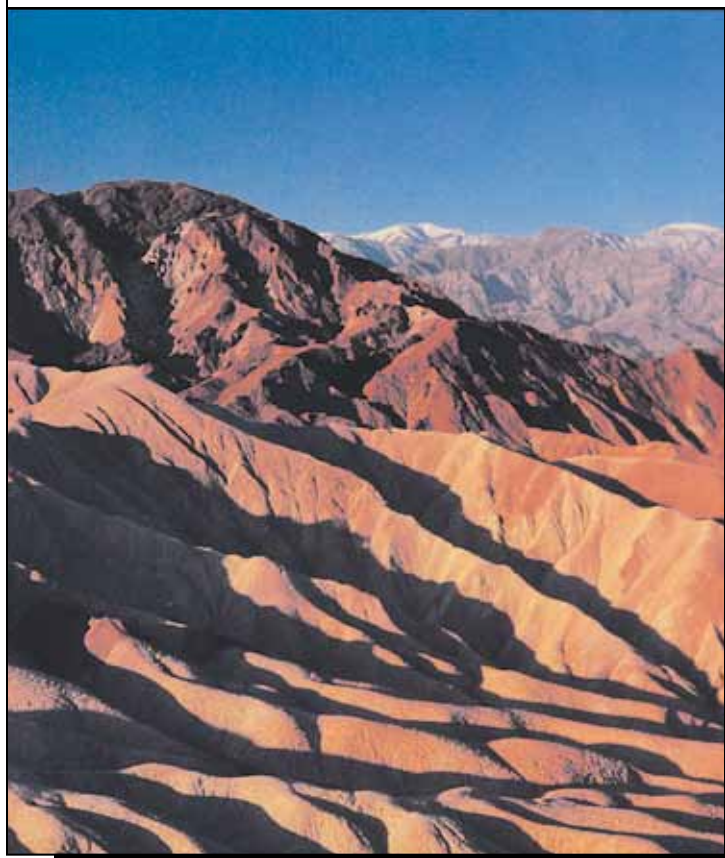


Join us... for a spectacular Spring Getaway! March 25–April 1, 2012



BETCHART
EXPEDITIONS Inc.

**Sigma Xi & ACS Expeditions
AAAS Travels**

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014



FIRST CLASS

*Come enjoy spring in
Death Valley & the Mojave!*

DEATH VALLEY & Mojave Expedition

March 25–April 1, 2012

A Special Expedition
for Members and Friends
of the
American Association for the
Advancement of Science
& Sigma Xi,
The Scientific Research Society

Dear Friends:

Join us!... as we explore California's desert paradise, Death Valley, and the Mojave National Preserve on a splendid spring vacation!

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.

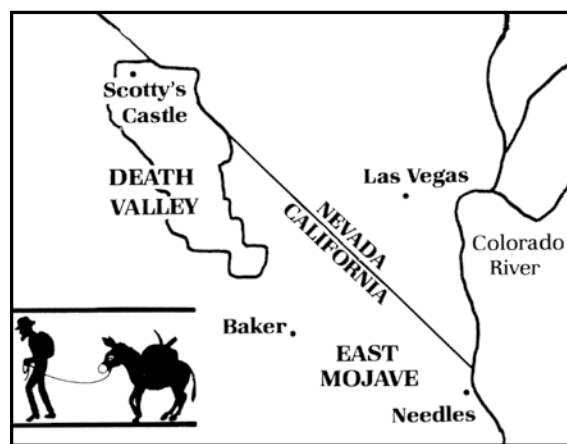
Death Valley and the Mojave offer an intriguing look at flora and fauna of the desert — from desert pupfish to roadrunners, kangaroo rats to coyotes in a land of ancient lake beds, cactus rock gardens, rock salt pinnacles, and fabulous sand dunes. History beckons at every corner, allowing us to relive the days of the 49'er gold seekers and prospectors. See the historic Kelso Train Depot and then immense Scotty's Castle.

Led by an excellent 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! And share a wildflower spring in Death Valley and the Mojave Desert!

Sincerely,

Robert P. Nansen
Naturalist
for AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi & ACS Expeditions



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Narrative by Narca A. Moore-Craig, Theron L. McCuen, Frank S. Balthis,
Klaus O. Rickter, and James Tallon.

CST# 2036304-40



ITINERARY

Day 1 – Home to Las Vegas.

Fly from home to Las Vegas and transfer on your own to the *Hampton Inn & Suites*. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner and trip orientation. D

Day 2 – Mojave National Preserve & Needles, California.

This morning begin to explore the Mojave National Preserve with a drive through a Joshua tree forest at the base of the New York Mountains. Many species use the Joshua trees as nesting and perching posts, and they are the main habitat for the rare desert night lizard. Also stop at scenic overlooks and scan the sky for birds. Stay in Needles at the *Colorado River Inn*. B,L,D

Day 3 – Hole-in-the-Wall & Kelso Dunes.

This morning, wander through the Mojave National Preserve — a relatively undisturbed portion of the Mojave Desert. Here, elements of the low Colorado Desert, the cooler Great Basin Desert, and the high Mojave Desert combine to form a unique grouping of plant and animal communities. Explore stands of creosote bush and groves of the curious Joshua trees and watch for desert tortoise, golden eagles, and red tailed hawks. Walk among stands of succulent cacti and view the intricate limestone formations at Hole-in-the-Wall. Following lunch we will depart for the historic Kelso Train Depot and the Kelso Dunes for a walk along the edge of 400-foot tall dunes. At Cinder Cones National Natural Landmark see how the vegetation has reestablished itself on the desert soils. Optional drive along a desert road to look for nocturnal animals. *Wills Fargo Motel (2 nights)* in Baker. B,L

Day 4 – Zzyzx Springs & East Mojave.

Today we will go to Zzyzx Springs and the Desert Studies Center, a desert teaching and research center operated by the California State University system. Here we will set out animal traps for live capture of nocturnal animals such as kangaroo rats and glossy snakes. A quiet dinner at the Springs will coincide with the aerial flights of bats as they forage for flying insects. B,L,D

Day 5 – Zzyzx Springs & Death Valley National Park.

Morning return to Zzyzx Springs to see the animals in traps left out overnight. Release of captures will provide excellent opportunities to discuss shapes, colors, and other adaptations. After a picnic lunch, proceed to Badwater, the lowest point in the western hemisphere at 282 feet below sea level. Drive through the ragged rock-salt pinnacles of Devils Golf Course to *Furnace Creek Ranch or Stove Pipe Wells Inn (3 nights)*. Here we may see coyotes and roadrunners. B,L

Day 6 – Death Valley National Park.

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 which, at 5,400 feet, provides an even more impressive view from the salt flats to the 11,000 foot Panamint Mountains. Afternoon at leisure. At sunset, walk along Salt Creek, a desert oasis teeming with desert pupfish and also a resting ground for migrating birdlife. D

Day 7 – Scotty's Castle & Titus Canyon.

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, and Scotty's Castle. This richly decorated mansion 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. Afternoon visit to the mouth of Titus Canyon in the Amargosa Range. The brightly colored Cenozoic rocks provide some of the valley's most spectacular scenes with glorious pockets of wildflowers in side canyons. Farewell dinner. L,D

Day 8 – Las Vegas & 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. B

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 showing their multi-colored rock layers with 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: \$2,595 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 Mojave National Preserve with an excellent 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 a comfortable lodge in Death Valley, desert motels, and 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 leader; 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 March 25 and depart after 2:00 p.m. on April 1.

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. You will receive an invoice for the balance which 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, and the American Chemical Society (ACS), 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 Renee Apostolou or Bob Nansen, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
(800) 252-4910 or **(408) 252-4910**

RESERVATIONS #1214

YES! I/We want to join the **Death Valley & Mojave Expedition, March 25–April 1, 2012**, 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 (____) _____ Wk (____) _____

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 2012, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, California 95014-5435**