Death Valley National Park

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Death Valley Visitor Guide
Summer 2013

Surviving Summer in Death Valley

Summer in Death Valley is extreme. These conditions can be dangerous to the foolhardy or unprepared. Summer visitors to Death Valley must take special precautions to have a safe and enjoyable trip.

You keep cool by sweating.
• On a 110°F (44°C) day you will perspire away about a quart (1 liter) of water an hour. Exercise or exposure to the sun increases that rate.
• If you do not replace that water as you use it up, your body will lose control of its temperature.
• If you feel dizzy, nauseous, or develop a headache, get out of the sun immediately and drink plenty of water.

Heat and dehydration can kill.
• Thirst, like pain, is a warning.
• Dehydration is already occurring once you feel thirsty.
• Drink at least one gallon (4 liters) of water per person a day.
• Drink it freely and often, do not ration or save it.
• In your car, bring plenty of extra water in case of emergency and always bring a water bottle for even the shortest hikes.

Clothing helps you keep cooler.
• Clothing retains perspiration and protects you from solar radiation.
• If you are not wearing a shirt, sunglasses, and a broad-brimmed hat, you are not prepared to walk anywhere in Death Valley.
• Avoid the salt flats when it is hot. Do not walk away from your vehicle onto the salt flats (or anywhere below sea level) when temperatures are above 100°F (38°C).
• There is no shade and the reflected sunlight is intense.

Higher elevations are cooler.
• When the floor of Death Valley is too warm for comfortable sight seeing, visit the higher elevations of the Park.
• Take a trip to Dante’s View, Aguereberry Point, and Wildrose Canyon to escape the heat.

Watch your vehicle gauges.
• Turn off your air conditioner as you drive out of the valley to lessen strain on your car.
• If the engine overheats, do not stop the motor. Face it into the wind and let it idle.

Average Temperatures

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>MIN</th>
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<tr>
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Official weather station at Furnace Creek

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Death Valley Visitor Guide
Safety

**Water:** Drink at least one gallon (4 liters) of water per day. Carry plenty of extra drinking water in your car.

**Heat & Dehydration:** If you feel dizzy, nauseous or have a headache, get out of the sun immediately and drink plenty of water. Dampen your clothing to lower body temperature. Heat and dehydration can kill.

**Summer Driving:** Stay on paved roads in summer. If your car breaks down, stay with it until help comes. Be prepared; carry plenty of extra water.

**Stay alert and slow down:** The most common cause of death in the park is single car vehicle accidents. A moment of inattention can send you, your car, and your loved ones flipping into the rocky desert.

**Do not rely on technology!** Your cell phone will not work in most of the park. GPS devices frequently tell Death Valley visitors to turn off well-traveled roads, and take “shortcuts” over the desert and into canyons. Common sense and good judgment are far more reliable.

**Hiking:** DO NOT hike in the low elevations when temperatures are hot. The mountains are cooler in summer.

**Flash Floods:** Avoid canyons during rain storms and be prepared to move to higher ground. While driving, be alert for water running in washes and across road ditches.

**Dangerous Animals:** Never place your hands or feet where you cannot see first. Rattlesnakes, scorpions or black widow spiders may be sheltered there.

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**Sicherheit**

**Wasser:** Trinken Sie mindestens vier Liter Wasser pro Tag. Führen Sie immer noch zusätzliches Trinkwasser im Auto mit sich.

**Hitze & Flüssigkeitsverlust:** Wenn Sie sich schwitzen fühlen, Ihnen übel ist oder Sie Kopfschmerzen bekommen, gehen Sie sofort aus der Sonne und trinken Sie reichlich Wasser. Feuchten Sie Ihre Kleidung an, um Ihre Körper- temperatur zu senken. Hitze und Flüssigkeitsverlust können tödlich sein.

**Fahren im Sommer:** Bleiben Sie auf befestigten Straßen. Wenn Ihr Auto liegenbleibt, bleiben Sie vor Ort und warten Sie, bis Hilfe kommt. Seien Sie vorbereitet: nehmen Sie immer reichlich Wasser in Ihrem Auto mit.

**Bleiben Sie wachsam und fahren Sie langsam:** Die hauptsächliche Todesursache im Death Valley ist ein einfacher Autounfall. Ein Moment der Unachtsamkeit kann senden, Sie, Ihr Auto und Ihre Lieben dazu verdammen, in der steinigen Wüste zu sterben.

**Verlassen Sie sich nicht auf die Technik!** Ihr Handy wird im größten Teil des Parks nicht funktionieren. GPS Geräte weisen Besucher des Death Valleys häufig an, die viel befahrenen Straßen zu verlassen und „Abkürzungen“ durch die Wüste und die Canyons zu nehmen. Geschwindigkeitsbeschränkungen in einer Fläche, die die Geschwindigkeit der Wüste mit einem Höchstgehalt von jeder zweite gezogenen Straße aufsuchen können. Achten Sie während der Fahrt auf Wasser, das in Plätzen und Schlaglöcher läuft.

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**Sécurité**

**Eau:** Boire au moins un gallon (4 litres) d’eau par jour. Portez beaucoup d’eau potable supplémentaire dans votre voiture.

**La chaleur et la déshydratation:** Si vous ressentez des étourdissements, des nausées, ou des maux de tête, mettez-vous à l’abri du soleil et buvez beaucoup d’eau. Humidifiez des vêtements afin de baisser votre température corporelle. La chaleur et la déshydratation peuvent vous tuer.

**La conduite en été:** Restez sur les routes pavées. Si votre voiture tombe en panne, restez là jusqu’à ce que les secours arrivent. Soyez prêt; apportez beaucoup d’eau supplémentaire.

**Rester vigilant et freiner la voiture:** La principale cause de décès à Death Valley est un accident impliquant un seul véhicule. Un moment d’inattention peut faire se retourner votre voiture, lançant vous-même et vos proches dans le désert rocailleux.

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**Sicurezza**

**Acqua:** Bevete almeno un gallone (4 litri) d’acqua ogni giorno. Portate più acqua nella macchina in modo da avere abbastanza se finite l’acqua che portate con voi.

**Caldo e Disidratazione:** Se avete la tendenza che, la nausea o la malessere, trovate subito dell’ombra o un posto dove non c’è il sole e bevete molta acqua. Inumiditi i vestiti per abbassare la temperatura del corpo. Il caldo e la disidratazione possono uccidere.

**Guidare durante l’estate:** Rimanete sui sentieri asfaltati: Se la vostra macchina si guasta, rimanete con la macchina finché arrivano i soccorritori. Si prepari, portate tanta acqua.

**Stato in allerta e rallentate:** La causa di morte più comune nella Death Valley è un incidente di una sola macchina. Un momento di disattenzione può ribaltare la vostra macchina nel deserto roccioso, con voi e i vostri cari dentro.

**Non fate troppo affidamento sulla tecnologia!** Il vostro cellulare non funziona nella maggior parte del parco. I GPS dicono spesso ai visitatori del parco di prendere una “scorciatoia” attraverso il deserto e nei canyons, lontano dalle strade molto trafficate. Il buon senso, una mappa della Death Valley e decisioni assennate sono più affidabili della tecnologia.

**Escursionismo:** Non fate escursione a basse altitudini durante l’estate. I montagni intorno alla Death Valley sono più fredde e c’è molto sentieri.

**Allagamenti:** Evitate i canyon montano durante l’inverno e in primavera; state preparati a muoversi verso un punto più elevato. Mentre guidate, state attenti all’acqua che corre attraverso la strada.

**Animali Pericolosi:** Non mettere mai le mani o i piedi dove non potete vedere. Croati, scorpioni, o vedove nere potrebbero esseri venefici.

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**Regole**

**Le tasse di entrata si applicano a tutti i visitatori!** Per favore, controllate a pagina 8 per il costo esatto che dovrete pagare.

**Cani e Biciclette** non sono permessi sui sentieri o nell’area selvatica che copre 90% del parco.

**Non mettere nel tunnel delle miniere o nei pozzi.** Le miniere potrebbero essere instabili, avere pozzi nascosti e sacche di aria o gas tossici.

**Non dar da mangiare agli uccelli o agli animali selvatici.** Questa regola è per la vostra protezione e la salute della nostra fauna.

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**Guida**

**É vittato guidare fuori dalle strade.** Ricorda che è stato segnalato un canale di gas.

**Non portate via niente!** Lasciate i sacchetti di plastica, e portate le storie dove li avete trovati in modo che tutti possano godervi.
What to See & Do: Summer

Auto Touring

Air-conditioned vehicles allow us to comfortably enjoy Death Valley in the summer. Just in case your car breaks down, carry plenty of extra water. For safety's sake, keep to main roads this time of year and avoid walking in the heat.

- **Artist's Drive**: A scenic loop drive through multi-hued volcanic and sedimentary hills. Artist's Palette is especially photogenic in late afternoon light. The 9 mile /14.5 km paved road is one-way and is open to all vehicles less than 25 feet/7 m in length.

- **Badwater Basin**: The lowest point in North America, Badwater Basin is a surreal landscape of vast salt flats. A temporary lake may form here after heavy rainstorms. Do not walk on the salt flats in hot weather. Wheelchair accessible.

- **Dante’s View**: The most breathtaking viewpoint in the park, this mountain-top overlook is more than 5000 feet/1524 m above the floor of Death Valley. The paved access road is open to all vehicles less than 25 ft/7m in length.

- **Devil's Golf Course**: An immense area of rock salt eroded by wind and rain into jagged spires. So immense, the devil could play golf on such rough links. The unpaved road leading to it is often closed after rain.

- **Father Crowley Vista**: Dark lava flows and volcanic cinders abruptly gives way to the gash of Rainbow Canyon below this viewpoint. Walk the dirt track east of the parking lot for a grand overlook of Panamint Valley.

- **Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes**: Tawny dunes smoothly rise nearly 100 feet/30 m from Mesquite Flat. Late afternoon light accentuates the ripples and patterns while morning is a good time to view tracks of nocturnal wildlife. Moonlight on the dunes can be magical, yet night explorers should be alert for sidewinder rattlesnakes during the warm season.

- **Twenty Mule Team Canyon**: Winding through otherworldly badlands, this 2.7 mile/4.3 km, one-way loop drive is unpaved, but accessible to vehicles other than buses, RV’s, and trailers.

- **Ubehebe Crater**: Just a few hundred years ago a massive volcanic explosion caused by magma mixing with an underground spring, shattered the silence of northern Death Valley. When the cinders and dust settled, this 600 feet/183 km deep crater remained.

- **Zabriskie Point**: Surrounded by a maze of wildly eroded and vibrantly colored badlands, this spectacular view is one of the park’s most famous. Zabriskie Point is a popular sunrise and sunset viewing location. The viewpoint is a short walk uphill from the parking area.

Other Cool Things

- **Furnace Creek Visitor Center**: The main park visitor center has new exhibits, park film, a bookstore and rangers on hand to answer questions. Free WiFi 10 am to 3 pm

- **Borax Museum**: A privately-owned museum located in the Furnace Creek Ranch. Exhibits include a mineral collection and the history of Borax in Death Valley. Behind the museum building is an assembly of mining and transport equipment.

- **Swimming Pools**: Did you bring your swimsuit? Stovepipe Wells Resort and Furnace Creek Ranch have pools available to use for a fee.

- **Nighttime walks**: After the blazing sun sets, you can see more stars than you ever imagined or the desert bathed in moonlight. Although it can still be hot in the evening, night is when desert wildlife becomes active.

Scotty’s Castle Tours

Prospector “Death Valley Scotty” claimed this elaborate Spanish-style mansion was built by gold from his fictitious mine. In reality, it was the 1920s vacation home of his wealthy friends, Albert and Bessie Johnson. Today, living history tours of the castle’s richly furnished interior are given by costumed park rangers.

- **House Tour**: General Admission ……………. $15

- **Underground Tour**: General Admission …………. $15

- **House & Underground Combo**: General Admission ……………. $25

- **House Tour**: Best tour for first-time visitors. Tours are led by National Park Service rangers, dressed in 1939 clothing. The guide will share stories about the heyday of the Castle in the late ’30s, the construction in the 1920s, and the curious relationship between the Johnsons and Scotty. The house is fully furnished with the Johnsons’ original decorations. Some of their clothing even hangs in the closets! A highlight of the program is listening to the Welte-Mignon theater organ. Tours offered daily, times vary. One hour. Wheelchair lift may be available.

- **Underground Tour**: Scotty’s Castle was very remote when it was built in the 1920s. The underground tour focuses on how the Johnsons built a comfortable vacation home in Death Valley. The tour sees the basement, underground tunnels, heating system, original pipes, original power generation and power storage systems. A highlight is the demonstration of electrical generation using an original Pelton water wheel. Offered most days from November through April, times vary. One hour. Tour involves stairs, no lift available.

Panamint Mountains

The higher the elevation, the cooler it will be. The Panamint Mountains are the highest in the park and often snow-covered in winter, but summer is the perfect time to visit. While the valley swelters, wildflowers may be blooming on the tallest peaks. This area is accessible only to vehicles less than 25 feet/7 m in length.

- **Wildrose Charcoal Kilns**: These ten beehive-shaped structures are among the best preserved in the west. Built in 1876 to provide fuel to process silver/lead ore, they still smell of smoke today. The last 2 miles/3 km of gravel road to the kilns is passable to most vehicles.

- **Aguereberry Point**: One thousand feet higher than Dante’s View, this viewpoint gives a perspective over Death Valley from the west. Along the gravel road are the remains of Pete Aguerreberry’s camp and his Eureka Mine. The last climb to the point may require a high-clearance vehicle.

- **Wildrose Peak Trail**: A good high peak (9,064 ft/2762 m) to climb in the summer. Trail begins at north end of Charcoal Kilns with an elevation gain of 2,200 ft/670 m Spectacular views beyond 2 mile/3.2 km point.

- **Telescope Peak Trail**: A strenuous trail to the highest peak in the park (11,049 ft/3368 m) has a 3,000 ft/914 m elevation gain. Trail is usually snow-free by June. Start at Mahogany Flat Campground at end of Wildrose Canyon Road. Steep road after Charcoal Kilns.

Reservations

- **General Admission**: Reservations are not necessary for tours, but can reduce wait time once you arrive. Tickets may be purchased at least one day in advance from www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. On the day of the tour, tickets may only be purchased in person at the Scotty’s Castle Visitor Center.

- **Individual Discounts**: Youth (ages 6-15) ……………. 50%

- **Interagency Senior Pass holder**: …………. Free

- **Interagency Access Pass holder**: ……………………………. 50%

Death Valley Visitor Guide
World’s Hottest

100th Anniversary of the World’s Hottest Recorded Air Temperature

Chris Stachelski - National Weather Service, Las Vegas, NV

Death Valley, California, is known for being a land of extremes – including its climate. Temperatures normally reach or exceed 100 degrees from mid-May until early October. On July 10, 1913 a temperature of 134°F was recorded here which stands as the hottest air temperature ever recorded on a properly sited and maintained thermometer anywhere in the world.

Early government surveys took weather observations in Death Valley as early as the 1860s, but it was not until 1911 that a permanent weather station was established. An arrangement was made between the United States Weather Bureau (as today’s National Weather Service was then known) and the Pacific Coast Borax Company to establish and maintain a weather station at the Greenland Ranch, located across the street from what is now the Furnace Creek Ranch at 178 feet below sea level. Temperature and precipitation observations on June 8, 1911, T. Osborn, the Greenland Ranch foreman, was the station’s first official observer.

During July 1913, Death Valley endured an intense stretch of hot weather from the 5th through the 14th where the high temperature reached 125 degrees or greater every day. This 10 day consecutive stretch ranks as the longest such period on record at this location. The hottest days were from the 9th through the 13th when the high reached at least 129 degrees. The most sweltering day was on July 10th when the temperature spiked to 134 degrees. Although Death Valley was already known for being an extremely hot place – this reading helped to solidify this reputation.

Although minor adjustments were made from 1924 and in subsequent years to the location and exposure of the weather instruments at Greenland Ranch, the biggest change came on April 1, 1961 when the new Furnace Creek Visitor Center opened and the weather station was moved to its present location.

Over the years interest in Death Valley weather has continued to grow. In 2013, the National Weather Service office in Las Vegas, Nevada compiled a webpage with a detailed history of the weather station in Death Valley as well as a record of the weather. Visit www.wrh.noaa.gov/vef/climate/DeathValleyClimateBook/index.php to learn more about Death Valley’s climate.

Chris Stachelski is a meteorologist with the National Weather Service’s Las Vegas office and is the program manager for the office’s climate program.

Why So Hot?

The depth and shape of Death Valley influence its summer temperatures. The valley is a long, narrow basin 282 feet (86 m) below sea level, yet is walled by high, steep mountain ranges. The clear, dry air and sparse vegetation allow sunlight to heat the desert surface. Heat radiates back from the rocks and soil, which then becomes trapped in the valley’s depths. Summer nights provide little relief as overnight lows may only dip into the 80°s to 90°F range.

Heated air rises, becomes trapped by the high valley walls, then is cooled and recycled back down to the valley floor. These moving masses of superheated air blow through the valley, creating extreme high temperatures.

Longest Hot Spells

The greatest number of consecutive days with a maximum temperature of 100°F (38°C) or above was 120 days in 2001. 1917 had 52 days of 120°F (49°C) or greater with 43 consecutive days with a high temperature of 120°F or above.

Summer Heat Can Be Deadly

People from around the globe are able to travel through the sweltering heat of the valley in the comfort of air conditioned cars. With that ease of travel, visitors often underestimate the dangers of being in the hottest place in the world.

Ingrid and Gerhard Jonas were only a few days into their summer vacation in the United States when they arrived in Death Valley. A guidebook they had brought from home described the hike from Golden Canyon to Zabriskie Point, which proved irresistible to Gerhard. The trail was only a few miles from developed Furnace Creek so it seemed safe. Although he would be getting a late start at noon and the temperature was already more than 100°F (38°C) in the shade, Gerhard believed the hike would take only half an hour to complete. He was mistaken. Even on a mild wintertime day the nearly three mile hike over highly eroded badlands takes 1½ to 2 hours. He was also mistaken to think he would need less than a liter of water to complete the hike on that hot June day, which was becoming hotter by the minute.

Ingrid agreed to drive around and meet him at Zabriskie Point. From the viewpoint, she could watch for Gerhard to cross over the colorful landscape. Three hours after their arranged rendezvous time there was still no sign of him, and Ingrid became worried enough to seek help. She told rangers at the visitor center about her overdue husband and a search was begun in 112°F (45°C) heat. A quick over-flight in the park airplane revealed a figure fitting his description in lower Gower Gulch, the next drainage south of Golden Canyon. Alaska ranger Mitchel Gerbrand only ½ hours after he was first reported missing and only 5 hours after he had started his hike, he was dead. Heat stroke proved to be the culprit.

Could this death have been prevented? With better planning, better timing, and enough water, this story may have ended differently.
As any weather aficionado can avow, Earth’s most iconic weather record has long been the legendary all-time hottest temperature of 58°C (136.4°F) measured on September 13, 1922 at Al Azizia, Libya (also called El Azizia, El-Azizia, El-Aziziya, or various other spellings). It is a figure that has been for meteorologists as Mt. Everest is for geographers. For the past 90 years, no place on Earth has come close to beating this reading from Al Azizia, and for good reason—the record is simply not believable.

In early March 2010, I was included in an email loop concerning questions about this record. The email discussion participants at that time included a team of researchers headed by Similiano Herrera, an Italian temperature researcher and climatologist based in Bangkok, Piotr Djakov, a Polish weather researcher, and Khalid Ibrahim El Fadli, director of the climate department at the Libyan National Meteorological Center (LNMC) in Tripoli. Previous to this discussion, I had generally accepted the Libyan world record as acceptable, although suspicious. The figure had been around for 90 years, and two previous studies by Amicare Fantoli (who was the man responsible for verifying the record in 1922) had more or less substantiated the extreme 58°C figure.

However, Piotr produced a chart of the monthly temperature amplitudes at Azizia for each September from 1921 - 1946, and this chart raised an alarm so far as the validity of the Azizia record was concerned. This was the first time that I began to really think something was not right about the record.

I was intrigued that El Fadli was skeptical of the Al Azizia 58°C figure, and requested more data. El Fadli’s enthusiastic and gracious response (to provide all and any weather data I might be interested in) was beyond my expectations. Past experience had shown me that many national weather bureaus consider their data proprietary and/or subject to excessive fees for access.

With El Fadli’s data on hand and after researching all (to me at the time) known other references concerning the Al Azizia event, I posted a blog on wunderground.com reflecting my findings on October 8, 2010. I forwarded a copy of this to Dr. Randy Cerveny, a professor at Arizona State University (ASU) and co-Rapporteur of climate and weather extremes for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). In any case, Randy picked up the ball and created an ad-hoc evaluation committee for the World Meteorological Organization to evaluate the record for the WMO Archive of Weather and Climate Extremes (http://wmo.asu.edu/). After this positive response from Randy, I asked El Fadli if Libya officially accepted the Azizia figure. He responded that they did not. Since records like this are, to a degree, the provenance of national interest and El Fadli responded that Libya did not officially accept the colonial-era data from Azizia (measured by Italian authorities at that time in Tripolitania), this became the catalyst to launch an official WMO investigation.

This would be an unprecedented investigation for this WMO extreme records evaluation committee. Rehashing old records is not the WMO Archive’s primary objective, which is to verify new potential records. Nevertheless, the investigation was approved and on February 8, 2011 an international team of climate experts was assembled (eventually 13 atmospheric scientists in all) by Randy. The official investigation began.

Amazingly, El Fadli had just uncovered a key document: the actual log sheet of the observations made at Azizia in September 1922 (see illustration further below). The log sheet clearly illustrated that a change of observers had occurred (as evidenced by the handwriting on it) on September 11, 1922, just two days prior to the ostensibly record temperature of 58°C on September 13th. Furthermore, the new observer had interchanged the Tmin columns with the Tmax columns.

Just as this key discovery (the finding of the original log sheet) was made, the Libyan revolution broke out. On February 15, 2011, we received the last message from El Fadli prior to the revolution. Col. Gaddafi, the leader of Libya, had shut down Libyan international communications.

Of course, without El Fadli’s critical input we could have moved no further with the investigation, and Randy called for a hiatus to further deliberations.

In early March, Gaddafi began airing long nightly rambling tirades on his government TV network. During one of these, he made an ominous reference to how NATO forces were using Libyan climate data to plan their assault on the country. My heart sunk when I heard this. I immediately thought that our colleague, El Fadli—as director of the LNMC—must have been implicated by Gaddafi as providing weather information to the “enemy”.

I must say, at that point, I—and the rest of the committee—thought El Fadli was a dead man.

We didn’t hear again from El Fadli until August 2011 when the revolutionary forces closed in on Tripoli. One of our committee members, Dr. Manola Brunet (WMO chair of the Open Programme Area Group on Monitoring and Analysis of Climate Variability and Change), who knew El Fadli personally, had until then been unable to contact him by phone or email. Then on August 13, 2011, we received our first email from El Fadli.

Then, as we all watched through the technology of television and Internet, by September 2011, the dictator Gaddafi was gone … and El Fadli was back!

With the investigation back on track, committee members made further progress in October and November. Dr. David Parker of the U.K. Met Office did a reanalysis of surface conditions across the Libyan region for September 1922. The results displayed a significant departure (up to 6 sigmas) from what the temperature observed at Azizia was to what the reanalysis plotted for the area. This was a key discovery, using technology that had never been available in past investigations of the Libyan record.

Also, Philip Eden of the Royal Meteorological Society and others uncovered information concerning the unreliability of the Bellani-Six type of thermometer that had apparently been used at Azizia in September 1922. Of particular interest was how the slide within the thermometer casing was of a length equivalent to 7°C. It would be easy for an inexperienced observer to mistakenly read the top of the slide for the daily maximum temperature rather than correctly reading the bottom of such slide, a point that El Fadli made in a message to me early on in the investigation.

With all the pieces of the puzzle now falling into place, a vote was taken in January 2012 resulting in a unanimous decision by the WMO committee members to disallow the Azizia record.

The WMO committee added the following comment: “An important aspect of this long investigation was that it just isn’t climatologists and meteorologists changing their minds. It goes beyond that. This investigation demonstrates that, because of continued improvements in meteorology and climatology, researchers can now reanalyze past weather records in much more detail and with greater precision than ever before. The end result is an even better set of data for analysis of important global and regional questions involving climate change. Additionally, it shows the effectiveness of truly global cooperation and analysis. Consequently, the WMO assessment is that the official highest recorded surface temperature of 56.7°C (134°F) was measured on 10 July 1913 at Greenland Ranch (Death Valley) CA USA.”

Christopher Burt is an author and Weather Historian for Weather Underground. Follow his blog at www.wunderground.com/blog/weatherhistorian/
# Visitor Services

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<th>Location</th>
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<th>Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Furnace Creek Visitor Center</td>
<td>National Park Service&lt;br&gt;Death Valley Natural History Association&lt;br&gt;760-786-3200&lt;br&gt;nps.gov/deva&lt;br&gt;facebook.com/DeathValleyNP&lt;br&gt;twitter.com/DeathValleyNPS&lt;br&gt;youtube.com/DeathValleyNP</td>
<td>Park information, exhibits, park film, bookstore, ranger talks, drinking water and restrooms. Pay park entrance fees and purchase passes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotty’s Castle Visitor Center</td>
<td>National Park Service&lt;br&gt;Death Valley Natural History Association&lt;br&gt;760-786-2392&lt;br&gt;tour reservations&lt;br&gt;877-444-6777 or recreation.gov</td>
<td>Tours daily (fee charged), park information, bookstore and restrooms. Soft drinks, sandwiches and snacks are also available.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stovepipe Wells Village</td>
<td>Death Valley Lodge Company&lt;br&gt;(park concession)&lt;br&gt;760-786-2387&lt;br&gt;escapetodeathvalley.com</td>
<td>Lodging, restaurant, bar, gift shop, convenience store, ATM, gas station, showers, swimming pool, paved airstrip, RV hookups, and ranger station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panamint Springs Resort</td>
<td>(privately owned)&lt;br&gt;775-482-7680&lt;br&gt;deathvalley.com/psr</td>
<td>Lodging, restaurant, bar, gas station, campground, RV hookups, and showers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace Creek Inn &amp; Ranch Resorts</td>
<td>Xanterra Parks &amp; Resorts&lt;br&gt;(privately owned)&lt;br&gt;760-786-2345&lt;br&gt;furnacecreekresort.com</td>
<td>Lodging, restaurants, bars, general store, gift shops, ATM, gas station (gasoline, diesel, propane, tire repair) post office, showers, laundromat, swimming, RV hookups, borax museum, golf course, tennis courts, and paved airstrip.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CAMPGROUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Tables</th>
<th>Fire pits</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
<th>RV Hookups</th>
<th>Dump Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furnace Creek (NPS)</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>-196’</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace Creek Ranch</td>
<td>all year</td>
<td>-218’</td>
<td>$32</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset (NPS)</td>
<td>mid Oct-Apr</td>
<td>-196’</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Spring (NPS)</td>
<td>all year</td>
<td>sea level</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stovepipe Wells (NPS)</td>
<td>mid Sept-mid May</td>
<td>sea level</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>some</td>
<td>some</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stovepipe Wells RV Park</td>
<td>all year</td>
<td>sea level</td>
<td>$31</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>some</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panamint Springs Resort</td>
<td>all year</td>
<td>2000’</td>
<td>$7.50-$30</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>some</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesquite Spring (NPS)</td>
<td>all year</td>
<td>1800’</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emigrant (NPS)</td>
<td>tent only</td>
<td>all year</td>
<td>2100’</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>flush</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildrose (NPS)</td>
<td>all year</td>
<td>4100’</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>vault</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorndike* (NPS)</td>
<td>Mar-Nov</td>
<td>7400’</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>vault</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahogany Flat* (NPS)</td>
<td>Mar-Nov</td>
<td>8200’</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>vault</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Accessible to high-clearance vehicles only. 4-wheel drive may be necessary.

- Furnace Creek Campground will be closed this summer for construction projects. Alternative summer camping in the Furnace Creek area can be found at Texas Spring Campground and Furnace Creek Ranch.
- Texas Springs Campground will remain open for the 2013 summer season. Generators will be allowed from 7 am to 7 pm. RVs and tents in upper level, tents only in lower level.
- RESERVATIONS for Furnace Creek Campground (up to 6 months in advance) and group campsites (up to 12 months in advance) for the camping season between October 15 to April 15 may be made on-line at recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777.