

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AT THE SPRINGS

1. What has the N.P.S. done since Saline Valley has become part of Death Valley National Park?

The airstrip south of the Springs has been closed. The Artesian Road is closed. The sand dunes are closed to car camping except for one site. Vehicle access to Wacoba Spring is closed. No rock hounding or gathering any object or plant is allowed. The 30-day camping limit per year is strictly enforced. No discharge of firearms is allowed. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times. Fire pans at campsites are recommended. Vault toilets have been installed. The Park Service has been very supportive of the Springs.

2. What is the temperature of the Source?

106 -110 degrees, depending on the time of year and whether it is windy.

3. How hot does it get here in the summer?

Highs run between 110 and 126 degrees every day. Summer lows average between 80 and 95 degrees. Folks do come here in the summer but be prepared for the extreme heat and blast furnace south winds. Heat stroke claims many lives in Death Valley in the summer. Drink plenty of water and cut out the alcohol. Be prepared for car breakdowns. Carry extra water. Summer brings out the deadly creatures: scorpions, rattlesnakes, and black widow spiders.

4. Where are we?

The first oasis you come upon is Lower Warm Spring; 3/4 mile farther north is Palm Spring; 2 1/2 miles farther north is Upper Warm Spring, a natural undeveloped warm spring in a fenced area.

5. "I wish the Park Service would pay me to stay here!"

In fact, the position of Camp Host at the Lower Warm Spring is volunteer, non-paying position with the N.P.S.

6. How are the roads into the Valley?

In summer months roads frequently wash out due to flash floods and may be impassable for several days. In winter months heavy snows can close both passes for days, weeks, or months. Be prepared. Carry chains in winter and spring or you may be unable to get in or out due to ice and snow. You can check with the Park Service for road conditions. At times, high clearance and/or 4-wheel drive is necessary to get in or out.

7. What is needed to maintain the Springs?

All materials and supplies are donated by visitors at the Springs. Items most needed are: toilet paper; bleach & brooms for pool cleaning; lawn fertilizer; grass seed - winter: winter rye grass seed, summer: Bermuda grass seed; firewood for community campfire area.

8. Why is the fence around the yard?

The fence is to keep wild burros out at night when they rampage. Ropes are clipped up at sunset and taken down in the morning. This keeps the lawn and trees from being destroyed by burros.

9. Can I camp on the lawn?

No, the NPS does not allow camping near the pools and lawn area. Camp at an already established camp site.

ENJOY!

