

California / Death Valley

Ubehebe Crater

DISTANCE: 2.2 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 800 feet

ROUTE TYPE: Loop

Ubehebe Crater is located in the north end of Death Valley National Park near the Eureka Dunes and Scotty's Castle. A parking lot along the rim provides a great view of the crater, and three trails offer even more.

Ubehebe Crater is a maars volcano that was created by a phreatic eruption two to seven thousand years ago. Hot magma converted groundwater into steam, which created an intense pressure and an intense explosion. The result was a half-mile wide crater surrounded by a large cinder field.

It is often extremely windy along the rim of Ubehebe Crater. Be prepared for cooler temperatures than the desert floor. Death Valley National Park has an entrance fee, but no permit is needed to visit Ubehebe Crater.

To get to Ubehebe Crater: From Furnace Creek, take the 190 north for 17 miles to the intersection with Scotty's Castle Road. Turn right and continue north for 33.4 miles on Scotty's Castle Road. Turn left on Racetrack Road (1.6 miles short of Scotty's Castle) and drive 5.5 miles over gravel to the crater.

