

## California's Death Valley Sets New Record for Hottest Month

(Voice of America)

This is What's Trending Today...

California's Death Valley may have just set a world record for hottest month ever.

The area's average temperature for the month of July was 42.28 degrees Celsius. That is higher than the earlier world record, set last July in Death Valley as well.

Todd Lericos, a weather expert for the National Weather Service, said the record beat last year's record by "quite a bit." He added that the data still needed to be further examined before going into official record books.

The temperatures are measured at Furnace Creek in Death Valley National Park.

Death Valley got its name from a group of pioneers who became lost there in 1849 and 1850. They feared they were all going to die, the National Park Service says. And one person in the group did before the rest found their way out.

In the springtime, Death Valley National Park bursts to life with visitors who come to see the desert wildflowers. But by May, Death Valley is already extremely hot, the National Park Service says. Visitors from around the world still come, but not to see the blooms. Instead, they want to experience one of the hottest places on earth.

Summer heat there is so extreme that travelers are warned to drink at least four liters of water each day, carry extra water in their cars, stay close to their vehicles, and watch themselves and others for signs of heat illness.

Summer visitors are urged to "travel prepared to survive", avoid hiking at low elevations and return to their air-conditioned cars after just 10 to 15 minutes of being outside.

Last month, Death Valley recorded high temperatures of above 48 degrees Celsius for 17 of the last 18 days of July. For four consecutive days, high temperatures reached 52 degrees Celsius.

And that's What's Trending Today.

I'm Bryan Lynn.

*The Associated Press reported this story. Ashley Thompson adapted it for Learning English, with additional materials from the National Park Service. Kelly Jean Kelly was the editor.*

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/california-s-death-valley-sets-new-record-for-hottest-month/4511001.html/4511001.html>



# HEAT SAFETY TIPS

## WATER

Drink at least one gallon (4 liters) of water per day.  
Carry plenty of extra water in your car.  
Get wet! Use water to wet your clothing and cool down via evaporative cooling.

## SUN PROTECTION

Wear sunscreen and reapply.  
Wear protective, light-weight, loose-fitting clothing.  
Wear a hat.

## HEAT AND 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.  
Call emergency services if you feel ill.

## TRAVEL PREPARED TO SURVIVE

Stay on paved roads in the summer.  
If your car breaks down, stay with it until help comes, and ask a passing motorist alert emergency services.  
Carry plenty of water in case of emergency.

## LIMIT TIME OUTDOORS

We do **NOT RECOMMEND** hiking in the lower elevations in the summer.  
We recommend staying out of your car (A/C) for only 10 - 15 minutes before cooling down again.

**COOLEST** time of the day: **4 AM — 7 AM**

**HOTTEST** time of the day: **2 PM — 6 PM**

Death Valley is the hottest place on Earth.  
In the summer months (May-September) temperatures average over 100°F (38°C), and often exceed 120°F (49°C).

