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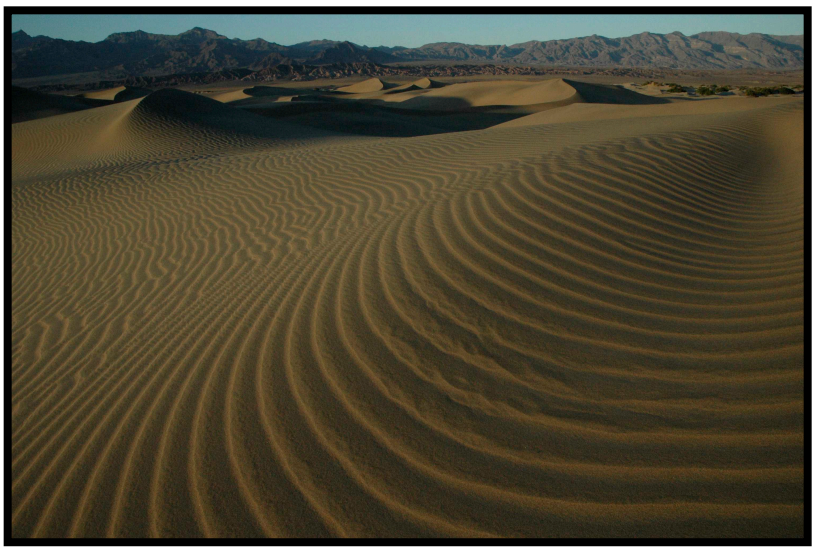


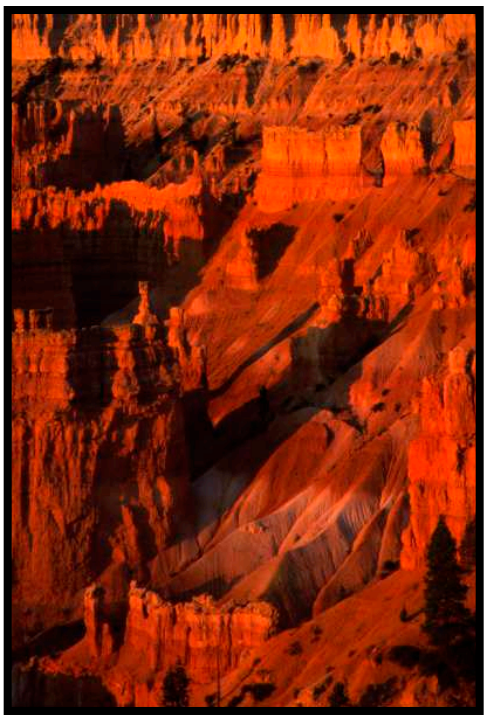
Las Vegas and Beyond...

Within a two hour drive in any direction of Las Vegas lies numerous photographic opportunities. To the Northwest are the sand dunes and open vistas of Death Valley. The largest National Park in the contiguous United States, Death Valley is over 350 miles long and 100 miles wide. Early morning wandering across Mesquite Dunes is a favorite location of mine.

To the Northeast lies two of the most magnificent National Parks in the United States; Zion and Bryce Canyon. From the waterfalls of Zion Canyon to the towering hoodoos of Bryce Canyon, these two parks offer a tremendous variety of potential images.

As a resource for quality landscape and nature photography, backcountryimages.com is proud to launch this series of Photo and Travel Guides to help fellow photographers discover new and classic locations. These guides will provide accurate and up to date information, and a sampling of my favorite images.

The early morning light at Bryce Canyon casts an orange glow across the dramatic spires. Fairyland Canyon and Wall Street are two favorite locations in Bryce.



One of the lesser known treasures of the Southwest is Cedar Breaks National Monument. Located about 2.5 hours from Las Vegas, Cedar Breaks is an amphitheater much like Bryce Canyon, offering dramatic spires and beautiful sunsets. Where Bryce is a great morning location, facing east, Cedar Breaks is a great sunset location, facing west.

About an hour outside of Las Vegas is the lesser known Mojave Desert Preserve. When early spring rains are abundant, the cactus flowers paint the desert with the reds of Claret Cups and the yellows of California Gold Poppies.

About 20 minutes from the Strip is Red Rock Canyon. In the early morning desert light, the sandstone and Joshua Trees stand in stark contrast.