

Flower power in the desert



THIS month (March) sees the start of Pink Jeep tours' 'Flower Power Trekker Tour' into the 3.3 million acre Death Valley National Park in California.

Record rainfall is expected to result in exceptional springtime blooms and to commemorate the anticipated wildflower bonanza Pink Jeep Tours is offering a special price of \$209 (£145) for the Flower Power Trekker Tour.

The special price will be available from March 1 through to April 30. Guests will be taken via The Tour Trekker, Pink Jeep Tours' brand new first of its kind, high-end and spacious sightseeing vehicle. The tour will include a picnic lunch.

The Death Valley desert is some 135 miles from Las Vegas and the tour begins with a visit to Rhyolite, Nevada, home to rustic ruins of the past and continues with entry into Death Valley National Park.

According to the US National Park Service, there are more than 1,000 plant species including 13 species of cactus and 23 endemics (indigenous plants in Death Valley). Desert annuals in red, white, yellow, purple, blue, red and magenta are the most visual.

Pink Jeep also runs tours to Eldorado Canyon, an old gold mining encampment and now family-run business an hour from Las Vegas. Visitors hear plenty of tales of the wild times and cut-throat activities of 19th century prospectors and are taken on an underground tour of the once-productive deep-veined mine shafts.

Eldorado is popular with movie crews and music video makers: Kevin Costner and Kirk Russell filmed there in 2000 for *3,000 Miles to Graceland*, while rock band The Killers have shot videos there. www.pinkjeep.com

