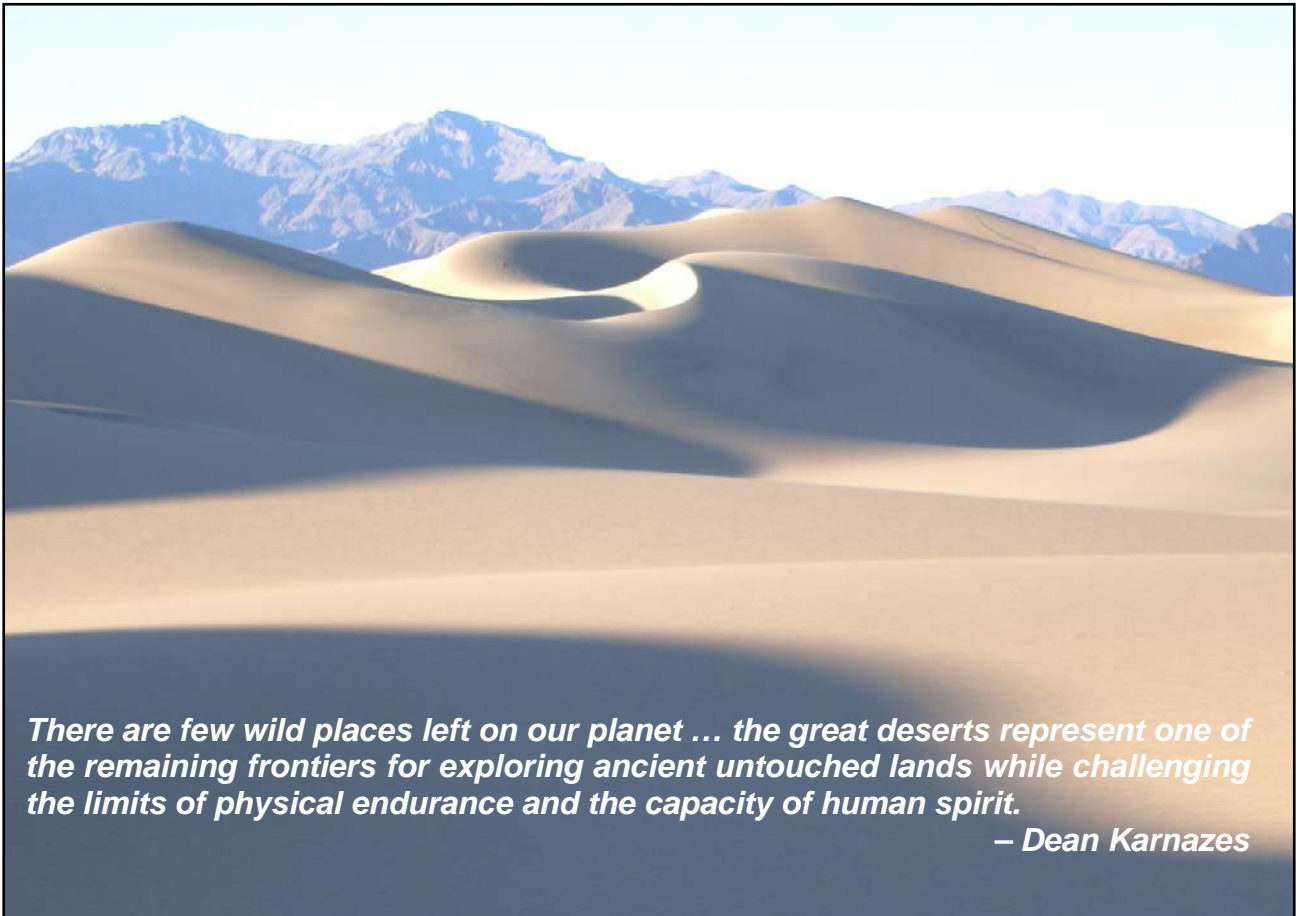


DESERT GRAND SLAM

March 30, 2008 to December 1, 2008



There are few wild places left on our planet ... the great deserts represent one of the remaining frontiers for exploring ancient untouched lands while challenging the limits of physical endurance and the capacity of human spirit.

– Dean Karnazes

Overview: The Desert Grand Slam is a global quest to complete five of the most grueling footraces imaginable, through some of the most raw and inhospitable environments on the earth, all in a single calendar year.

Description: Starting on March 30th in Chile's Atacama Desert and concluding on December 1st in Antarctica, endurance athlete Dean Karnazes will embark on an attempt to traverse five of the planet's most extreme landscapes on five separate continents, in one year. The Desert Grand Slam spans the driest, hottest, coldest, windiest, and most remote places on Earth.

Format: Four of the races are 250-kilometers in distance and require competitors to carry all of their necessary equipment and supplies throughout the duration of the event. The race across Death Valley is a 218-kilometer single-stage footrace across Death Valley and up the side of Mt. Whitney. All of these races require a high degree of planning and self-reliance to be successfully completed.

Races:

The Desert Grand Slam consists of five heart-pounding events:

- I. **Atacama Desert, Chile** (March 30 – April 5)
A rocky, virtually rainless plateau (1 mm per year) that extends from the Andes Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. www.4deserts.com/atacamacrossing/
- II. **Gobi Desert, China** (June 6- 14)
Named for its gravel-covered plains, the Gobi challenges all comers with vast extremes of temperature ranging from -50C to +50C. www.4deserts.com/gobimarch/
- III. **Death Valley/Mojave Desert, USA** (July 14 – 15)
The Badwater Ultramarathon, a 135-mile footrace in temperatures topping 120F—an environment that melts running shoes. Badwater has been coined, “The world’s toughest footrace.” www.badwater.com
- IV. **Sahara Desert, Africa** (Oct 26 – Nov 1)
Known as “The Great Desert”, where sand dunes rise to 180 meters (600 feet) high. www.4deserts.com/sahararace/
- V. **Antarctica** (Nov 16 – Nov 27)
The planet’s coldest, driest and windiest desert and home to no permanent human inhabitants. www.4deserts.com/thelastdesert/

Follow Dean’s Progress: Utilizing the latest in satellite and GPS technology, The Desert Grand Slam will provide a dynamic and interactive view into these exotic venues. Dean will be issuing daily dispatches and nightly blog updates, along with video and photographic images capturing the experience of crossing the desert on foot.

