TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN
Under the Path of Totality in Idaho
August 18–22, 2017

With Timothy Swindle,
Director, Lunar and Planetary Laboratory
and Alan Strauss of Steward Observatory
Dear Friends:

Join us as we witness totality of the first total solar eclipse in the continental U.S. in 38 years! In the company of experts, watch as the lunar shadow travels across the landscape to reveal a true celestial spectacle: the diamond ring, the sun’s glorious corona, strange colors in our sky and stars in the daytime. Our private eclipse viewing site in southwestern Idaho has been carefully chosen for historically low average cloud cover, and for the stunning scenery and wealth of cultural attractions of the region. Explore Idaho’s capital city of Boise with its hip urban culture and rich historical heritage. Walk the trails along Lake Cascade and canoe to secluded beaches on Payette Lake; go behind the scenes at Idaho’s two pre-eminent outdoor schools to learn of their progressive leadership and environmental education, and savor hand crafted wines at a Snake River Valley vineyard.

We are fortunate to witness this extraordinary solar event in the company of Lunar and Planetary Laboratory Director Timothy Swindle and Alan Strauss—Director of the UA Science School and Mt. Lemmon Sky Center. We will also enjoy the expertise of local naturalists and cultural guides, which will add meaning and context to the program. If you have any questions, or wish to make a reservation, please call the University of Arizona Alumni Association at 1-800-232-8278 or email Lisa Valentine at lisaval@al.arizona.edu.

Sincerely,

Ruth McCutcheon
Director of Development
Steward Observatory / Department of Astronomy

PS: This is a not-to-miss event! The next total solar eclipse over the continental U.S. doesn’t occur until 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

Witness a full one minute and fifty-nine seconds of eclipse totality in the center line of the Moon’s shadow at a private viewing location on the shores of the Payette River, reserved exclusively for our travelers.

Spend two nights in historic downtown Boise and discover the capital city’s vibrant culture, the legacy of its Basque community, and its historic heritage during a private tour lead by the Idaho Historic Preservation Council.

Enjoy behind-the-scenes visits to the McCall Outdoor Science School—dedicated to youth science and environmental education, and the Alzar School, dedicated to educating youth to be passionate future leaders.

Explore the night sky in the company of expert astronomers during a star gazing party the night before the eclipse.

Sample hand-crafted wines and enjoy a special farewell dinner at a private vineyard in the Snake River Valley wine country.

YOUR EXPERT FACULTY HOSTS

Timothy D. Swindle is Head of the Department of Planetary Sciences and Director of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. He is also a Professor of Geosciences and Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona and Director of the NASA Arizona Space Grant Consortium, which is devoted to developing the nation’s STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) workforce through programs at the community college and university level. Dr. Swindle has been studying the history of the solar system, primarily by analyzing meteorites and lunar samples, for more than 30 years, and is an award-winning instructor of undergraduate science courses. Asteroid 8690 is named “Swindle” in his honor.

Alan Strauss is the Director of the UA Science Sky School and Mt. Lemmon Sky Center. The College of Letters and Science, in conjunction with Steward Observatory, supports and hosts the SkyCenter and its programs as they seek to strengthen interest in science and astronomy through premium educational and public outreach experiences. Dr. Strauss earned his doctorate from the University of Arizona’s College of Education, and has a strong background in amateur astronomy and outdoor education.
ITINERARY

Friday, August 18
Home / Boise, Idaho
Depart home on a flight to Boise—Idaho’s thriving capital city with a small—town heart. This evening meet fellow travelers at a welcome reception.
THE GROVE HOTEL (R)

Saturday, August 19
Boise
Following an introductory lecture this morning on the upcoming solar eclipse, join expert guides from the Idaho Preservation Council for a walking tour of Boise’s historic downtown, public art, and cultural highlights. Learn about the unique history and culture of the Basque community in Idaho and the West during a private before-hours visit to the Basque Museum & Cultural Center. Enjoy a private lunch in the restored City National Bank, built in 1880, and discover Boise’s gracious boulevards lined with Victorian mansions, her lush parks, and eclectic architecture that define Boise as the cultural center of the gem state.
THE GROVE HOTEL (B,L)

Sunday, August 20
McCall & Cascade, Idaho
Travel north this morning along the Payette River National Scenic Byway to McCall and enjoy a special visit to the McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS). As Idaho’s only publicly operated K-12 outdoor school, MOSS is dedicated to getting people outdoors to learn about science, place and community. With local naturalists, paddle a canoe along the shores of Payette Lake to a secluded beach and picnic spot, and then walk along a forested trail to learn of the ecology of adjacent Ponderosa State Park and surrounding environs. Continue to the rural town of Cascade, arriving in time for a refreshing swim in Lake Cascade. This evening, attend a lecture, private dinner, and star gazing party in preparation for tomorrow’s total solar eclipse.
THE ASHLEY INN (B,L,D)

Monday, August 21
Cascade / Boise
Weather permitting, witness a full one minute and fifty-nine seconds of eclipse totality in the center line of the Moon’s shadow at our private viewing location at the Alzar School—dedicated to leadership development of high school students. Partial phase starts at 10:11:27 am at “1:00 o’clock” on the sun’s disk, with maximum totality at 11:27:52 am. Dr. Swindle’s expert knowledge guides us through this spectacular phenomenon. Following the conclusion of the eclipse at 12:50 pm, celebrate over lunch on site before returning to Boise. This evening, enjoy a private wine tasting and tour of the Ste. Chapelle Winery in the scenic Snake River Valley wine country, followed by a farewell dinner at the vineyard.
HYATT PLACE TOWNE SQUARE (B,L,R,D)

Local Contact Times for our planned viewing position at 44° 29’ 05.81” N 116° 00’ 41.50” W:
• 1st contact: (partial eclipse begins) 10:11:27 altitude: 33.8°
• 2nd contact: (totality begins) 11:26:53 altitude: 45.7°
• Maximum Eclipse: 11:27:52 altitude: 45.8°
• 3rd contact: (totality ends) 11:28:52 altitude: 46.0°
• 4th contact: (partial eclipse ends) 12:50:14 altitude: 55.2°
• Duration of totality: 1 minute and 59 seconds

Tuesday, August 22
Boise/Home
Transfer to the airport for flights home (B)
RESERVE NOW FOR TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN
August 18–22, 2017

Please send your deposit and this form to: The University of Arizona Alumni Association, Attn: Alumni Travel, 1111 N. Cherry Ave., Tucson, AZ 85721-1009. You may reserve immediately by calling Lisa Valentine at 520-621-5333 or 800-232-8278 with a credit card.

Name 1

Name 2

Address

City     State     Zip

Home Phone     Email Address

Mobile Phone

Hotel bed preference (not guaranteed):
○ One king ○ Two doubles
○ I prefer single accommodations at an additional $900.
○ Enclosed is a deposit of $_____________ ($500 per person)
(Please make check payable to Criterion Travel.)

To make this deposit please charge my
○ Visa ○ MasterCard ○ American Express ○ Discover

Credit Card Number     Exp. Date     CVV Code

Signature of Cardholder     Date

I/We confirm that I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions section of this brochure and agree to their terms.

Signature     Date

Signature     Date

Space is limited. Book early, this tour will fill quickly!

Program Rates Include: Educational program by faculty leader and local experts • All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Transfers on group arrival and departure days • Baggage handling • Gratitudes to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and housekeeping • House wine, beer, and soft drinks at included lunches and dinners (where possible) • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • Bottled water on excursions • Eclipse viewing eyewear • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout

Program Rates Do Not Include: Airfare to/from Boise • Medical expenses • Private airport transfers • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

GENERAL INFORMATION

What to Expect: Boise has a semi-arid climate with hot and dry summers. August temperatures range from the 90's during the day to the low 60's in the evenings. You will be traveling up to 5,000’ elevation where daytime temperatures are milder, ranging from the mid-80's to the 50s Fahrenheit. Intermittent rain showers are always a possibility, although extremely rare in August. The pace of this tour is moderately active and all participants should be in good health, physically fit, and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. Daily programs involve walking up to 2 miles, such as on city walking tours, from coach drop-off points, and on trails with uneven terrain including dirt and gravel paths. Some sites require going up and down stairs, some without handrails. Participants who chose to either paddle their own canoe or ride in the large voyageur canoe on Payette Lake will need to climb into and out of canoes (staff members will be on hand to assist).

Atmospheric Conditions at our Eclipse Viewing Site: Ideal weather, atmospheric and cloud conditions for viewing the eclipse can change and are not guaranteed. Our viewing location sits amidst the long valley of the Payette River, where the 30 year average precipitation in August is the lowest all year at 0.55 inches. Smoke and haze from western forest fires is a possibility. The University of Arizona Alumni Association and Criterion Travel assume no liability for atmospheric viewing conditions that are not in our control. A sense of humor, flexibility and patience may be required on eclipse day.

Group Size: This program is limited to 30 participants.

Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An information packet about travel insurance will be sent to registrants and is available in advance upon request.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All financial arrangements are being handled by the University of Arizona Alumni Association.

Reservations and Payments: A deposit of $500 is required to confirm your reservation. You may reserve space immediately by calling the Alumni Association at 1-800-232-8278 and providing a credit card. Or you may send the completed reservation form with your deposit payment (check or credit card information). Final payment is due April 20, 2017 (120 days prior to departure).

Cancellations and Refunds: Deposits are refundable (less a $250 per person administration fee) for any cancellation between the time of deposit and April 20, 2017 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations received after April 20, 2017 are 100% nonrefundable. All cancellations must be received in writing. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. If the program is cancelled by the University of Arizona, you will receive a full refund.

Itinerary Changes: The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the UA Alumni Association and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Criterion Travel reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

If you have questions, please call Lisa Valentine at 520-621-5333 or 1-800-232-8278, or email lisaval@al.arizona.edu.