

Our Destination: the most diverse and dramatic landscapes on Earth.

Really! Walk along magnificent cliffed coastlines with Redwood forests, cross the Sierra Nevada Mts. and head into the Basin and Range and Mojave Desert. Then over the incomparable High Sierras crest to Yosemite National Park. Northern California has some of the world's best scenery -- magnificent geologic stories in stone, and an amazing variety of ecosystems. We will even see a 4000 year old Bristle Cone Pine forest. Come with us! CHECK OUT OUR ITINERARY....

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TOUR -- 2018

Suggested dates -- which end with the full moon in Yosemite!

Aug. 11 – 25, 2018 (dates may be slightly changed due to lodging availability)

This trip begins and ends at the San Francisco Airport area. Note: This trip does not spend time in San Francisco, but you can! My suggestion: head to San Francisco at the end of the tour when we return to the San Francisco Airport.

DAY 1 Saturday, Aug. 11 Arrive **San Francisco** International Airport, lodging at an airport hotel. Evening meet and greet get together. Drivers will pick up vehicles.



DAY 2 Sunday, Aug. 12 **Tour Officially Begins.** Depart hotel at 10 am. For the scenic coastal town of **Fort Bragg** (next 3 nights) (185 mi) Scenic stops along the way, including the Golden Gate Bridge. Seaside lodging.

DAY 3-4 Monday / Tuesday, Aug. 13-14 Explore the numerous scenic parklands along the coast, plus the coastal redwood forest.

DAY 5 Wednesday, Aug. 15 Depart for South **Lake Tahoe.** This will be a 6 hour drive, from the coastal mountains, across the Central Valley, and into the High Sierras, ending at a beautiful shore lodging on Lake Tahoe.

DAY 6-7 Thursday / Friday, Aug. 16-17. Lake Tahoe destinations. Scenic drives and hikes around this 1600 ft. deep, exceptionally clear fault-basin lake that's 22 mi. long and 12. mi. wide. Lots of water activities to choose from, too.

DAY 8 Saturday, Aug. 18 Depart for Mammoth Lakes (140 mi). We pass through Basin and Range Topography of the Mojave Desert, with the High Sierras bordering on the West. Very impressive scenery! Along the way is **Bodie**, a ghost town, and also the unusual **Mono Lake** which we will explore tomorrow. Lodging (4

nights) at the mountain resort town of Mammoth Lakes.

DAY 9-10 Sunday – Monday, Aug. 19-20. Explorations of **Mono Lake** and **Devils Postpile National Monument**. Volcanic phenomena are revealed! You will be surprised, delighted, impressed...... Short drives and hikes.



DAY 11. Tuesday, Aug. 21 Into the most ancient groves of trees on the planet! Today's day trip will take us into the Inyo Mountains, just across the valley (to the east) from the Sierras. Here, in the 1950's, **Bristle Cone Pines** over 4,000 yrs old



were discovered at high elevation. We will take a day trip into the mountains to the visitors center and hike several hours along the Park Service trails through the trees, which are certainly not Redwoods in stature, but unique and scenic in their own way.

DAY 12 Wednesday Aug. 22 Today we cross the High Sierras on the famous **Tioga Pass** Road, and enter **Yosemite Valley**. 100 mi. Many short stops and walks along

the way. Next 3 nights in the Park at the Yosemite Valley Lodge.

DAYS 13, 14 Thursday / Friday. Yosemite explorations, drive and short hikes to Glacier Point. Free Day for hiking. Full Moon Views (moon rise = 5:15 Th / 6:00 Fri) (Sunrise = 5:20 am and Sunset = 6:40 pm both days)

DAY 15, Saturday, August, 25. Depart Yosemite, return to **San Francisco Airport** for your return (evening) flight. 200 mi. Suggestion: stay at an airport hotel with flight on the next day, Sunday, Aug. 26.

COST -- approximately \$3200 per person, double occupancy. Please note: our tours have excellent lodgings (in Yosemite Park, for example) and are typically much, much less than "big" tour companies. **Details:** Tour price includes excellent hotels and rental vehicles, tour guide, pre and post-trip meetings, guidebook, and video record of trip. You will have to sign a tour liability waiver. We have **volunteer tour-member drivers** for our rental vehicles, usually 7 passenger mini-vans with 4 passengers.

We arrange the maximum liability coverage for the rental vehicles. *Not included are*: Airfares, food, entrance fees, parking fees, vehicle gas. The group will split the cost for gas and parking.

Your Tour Leader: Prof. Richard Little began leading geology-oriented vacation-field trips in 1981 after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, as a way to have small groups see and appreciate the great wonders of our Earth. Over the past 30 years he and his wife, Suzanne, have planned and guided "Fantastic Landscape Tours" from Alaska and Hawaii to Yellowstone, the Caribbean, and Iceland. Dick has BA and MA degrees from Clark and the Univ. of So. Cal. in Los Angeles, and taught at Greenfield Community College since 1969, but now teaches part time. He is the author of two books and two videos about Connecticut Valley geology, and has been elected to the Mass. Science Educators Hall of Fame. Suzanne is a retired social worker and former educator, with a love of landscapes and plant identification.

RESERVE YOUR SPACE(S) Send \$100 per person deposit



to EARTH VIEW LLC, 6 GRAND VIEW LANE, EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027-1075 Want more information? Call 413.527.8536 email: RDLittle2000@aol.com

EarthView.rocks (http://earthview.rocks)

Payment schedule: \$100 deposit, fully refundable, even after the trip if you are not satisfied! \$2000 due May 1st.

Final Payment due July 1 st.

\$100 per person fee for cancellation after May 1 No refund 30 days or less to trip start unless space can be resold.