

FANTASTIC LANDSCAPES of and DESERT FLOWERS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

March 8 – 21, 2017

\$2550 est. pp/do + air

Check out this Earth View Itinerary! You'll definitely FIND FAULTS (and desert flowers) with this tour! Some of the world's best geology and scenery is located in Southern Cal!

We'll start at San Diego's scenic coast, head north along the coast to Long Beach where we will stay on the historic Queen Mary. Then, inland, eastward into the beautiful California desert to Palm Springs and Joshua Tree National Park. From Palm Springs we circle back to San Diego via the Salton Sea and Borrego Springs. We'll explore some amazing State and National Parks.....See below for the details.



Day 1 -- Wed, Mar. 8. Arrive **San Diego** for next 4 nights at the Marriott's waterfront resort on exquisite Coronado Island, viewing the beautiful San Diego waterfront.

Day 2 – Thurs, Mar. 9. Free day to explore with itineraries TBA. Coronado Island is famous for shoreline walking, jogging, biking, or people watching. We will meet in the afternoon to tour the grounds and have dinner (optional) at the historic Hotel Del Coronado.

Day 3 – Fri., Mar. 10 Coastal explorations to nearby **La Jolla** where seals and sea lions are in residence, then on to **Point Loma**, an amazing headland, lighthouse, and museum overlooking the Pacific.

Day 4 – Sat., Mar. 11. The world-class **San Diego Zoo** and **Balboa Park** museums are our destination.

Days 5, 6, 7, -- Sun – Tues. – 3/12-14. Today we head north, toward Los Angeles. Our destination: the **Queen Mary!** Along the way we stop for lunch at the oldest building in California: the 200-year-old **San Juan Capistrano Mission**. **Then on to the Queen where we** will have porthole view rooms on this historic museum-ship berthed in **Long Beach**. What a treat to relive the grand days of cruising without leaving port. From this convenient base, we will explore **Catalina Island**, the scenic **Palos Verdes Peninsula**, and the interesting city of Long Beach with its world class **Aquarium of the Pacific**. An option would be the **Huntington Museums**, with world famous gardens.



Day 8 -- Wed., Mar. 15 Depart the Los Angeles Basin. It's a short jaunt over the San Jacinto Mts. to **Palm Springs** for next two nights. We will cross the San Andreas fault zone and then for an incredible view at an elevation of 10,000 ft., we take the **Mt. San Jacinto** mountain tram ride to the mountain top.

Day 9 – Thurs., Mar. 16 Today we head to **Joshua Tree National Park** with walks and views of amazing mountains of eroding granite. Yes, there are lots of weirdly shaped Joshua trees to be seen as we do short hikes and look for desert flowers. Thursday is "Farmers Market" night along Palm Springs' main street. You have to see this!

The Queen Mary, Long Beach



Days 10 - 12 -- Fri. – Sun., Mar. 17-19. Depart southward, past the intriguing Salton Sea, including a stop at the beach (not for swimming). The next 3 nights will be at a resort in the small town of Borrego Springs, surrounded by the magnificent desert landscape of **Anza-Borrego State Park** (which is the size of Rhode Island!). Lots of great explorations over the next two days.... Slot canyons, steep faulted mountains, badlands, an oasis..... amazing landscape stories . You will be impressed. Plus there are desert flowers and palm tree oases.

Day 13, Mon., Mar. 20. Today we head back to San Diego, about 2 ½ hours away. Arrange your return plane flight for this **evening** -- OR -- (and this is highly recommended) spend an *optional night* in San Diego and depart on Day 14, Tues., Mar. 21. This optional night will be booked at the Best Western Yacht Harbor hotel, conveniently near the airport, at a cost of about \$75 per person.

COST -- approximately \$2550 per person, double occupancy. Please note: our tours have excellent lodgings and are priced typically much less than

"big" tour companies. Look at what you get!

Details: Tour price includes 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. Sometimes we have a 12-passenger van for transporting 6 people. 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. California in Los Angeles, and has taught geology and oceanography at Greenfield Community College since 1969 and is the author of two books and two videos about Connecticut Valley geology. He has been elected to the Mass. Science Educators Hall of Fame. Suzanne is a retired social worker and former educator and bio major in college. She loves to travel and identify plants.

TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE(S) *Send \$100 per person refundable deposit to*
EARTH VIEW LLC, 6 GRAND VIEW LANE, EASTHAMPTON, MA 01027-1075

Please contact us for more information.

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

***Payment schedule: \$100 deposit, fully refundable, even after the trip if you are not satisfied!
 \$50 per person fee for cancellation after January 1st.
 No refund 21 days or less to trip start.
 Final Payment due Feb. 1 st.***

Are you on our email list?



Photos: 1 . 20-ft high Joshua Trees and weathered granite hills. 2 standing in a dry waterfall with hanging boulder, Anaza-Borrego desert 3. Exploring the shore of the Salton Sea