

2023 Planetary Society Adventures

New Mexico

Annular Eclipse Expedition

October 8 - 15, 2023

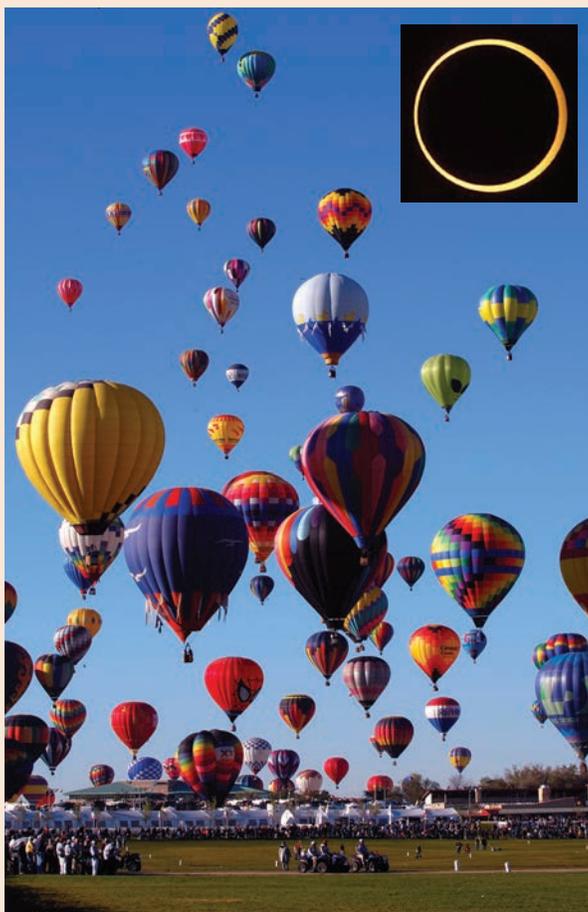
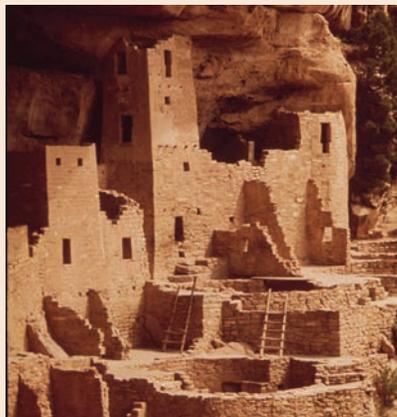
Including Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon & the international Balloon Fiesta!

Dear Friends:

We invite you to join us on a fascinating exploration of the American Southwest to see the Annular Solar Eclipse October 14, 2023 and to discover the rich heritage of this splendid part of North America.

We will travel from the stunning mesas of Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado to the extravaganza of the International Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico!

Our adventure will begin in historic Durango, Colorado, of railroad fame, and then Mesa Verde to discover breathtaking vistas and its cliffside dwellings.



Please see the New Mexico itinerary on page 2.

We will then venture south along the Animas River to see the Great Kiva at Aztec Ruins, and to discover the renowned World Heritage Site of Chaco Canyon, focal point for Pueblo Indian culture.

Nearby we will explore dramatic landscapes at Abiquiu Valley and Ghost Ranch, made famous by Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings. At night, we'll savor this outstanding Dark Sky location.

We'll then explore Santa Fe, and discover Acoma Sky City, the oldest continuously inhabited city in America, founded in 1150.

Our adventure will culminate at the International Balloon Festival, where we can soar in hot air balloons and then celebrate the Annular Solar Eclipse atop Sandia Peak.



Betchart Expeditions Inc.

17050 Montebello Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014

Phone: (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910 email: info@betchartexpeditions.com

New Mexico Annular Eclipse Expedition

Itinerary - October 8 - 15, 2023



Day 1 Arrive Durango, Colorado

Fly to Durango, Colorado, arriving by 3 pm. Transfer to our *Hotel (2 nights)*. Then enjoy time to stroll around this genuine old western town. Welcome dinner. D

Day 2 Mesa Verde National Park & World Heritage Site

We'll depart for Mesa Verde this morning, for an introduction to this extraordinary site. Mesa Verde is on a very high mesa, with piñon pine forests and soaring views toward the 4 corners region. We'll explore the mesa top to see Cliff Palace and other dwellings, with a stop at Sun Point Overlook for panoramic canyon views. B,L

Day 3 Aztec Ruins & Chaco Culture World Heritage Site

We'll head south into New Mexico along the Animas River to Aztec Ruins to see this 900-year-old site, including the reconstructed Great Kiva. Many American Indians today have deep spiritual ties with this ancient site. We'll then head for Chaco Culture National Historical Park which was a center for trade and culture for the Ancestral Puebloans from 850 to 1250 AD. Many buildings are aligned to the sun and moon and show knowledge of astronomical observations. *Abiquiu Inn (2 nights)*. B,L,D



communities. At least 23 tribal nations recognize the long history of this land. We'll then continue to Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico, founded in 1610. Here you can explore the plaza and museum and delight in this rich cultural center. Head south to Albuquerque and *Hotel Parq Central (3 nights)*. See the Balloon Festival Fireworks show tonight. B,L

Day 6 Acoma Sky City

We'll drive an hour west of Albuquerque to Acoma Sky City this morning to visit the Acoma Cultural Center and Haak'u Museum. Acoma is the oldest continually inhabited city in North America (founded in 1150 AD). We'll tour the Acoma Pueblo or have a virtual tour in their Ts'iKinuma K'aiya (Story Telling Room/Theatre). Gather for an Eclipse talk in preparation for the Annular Solar Eclipse tomorrow. B,L

Day 7 Annular Solar Eclipse at Sandia Peak

We'll depart this morning for Sandia Peak northeast of Albuquerque, where we will board the aerial tram to the 10,378 foot summit. Everyone will be given Eclipse glasses. We'll see the Annular Solar Eclipse with a fantastic view in all directions. Have a briefing about our Balloon adventure tomorrow. Farewell dinner in celebration of our journey. B,D

Day 8 Balloon Festival Mass Ascension & Depart for Home

We'll depart early for the Festival grounds to prepare for our balloon flight! At 7 am, the Mass Ascension of approximately 500 balloons will begin. We'll board our balloons and slowly soar aloft for a dramatic view of the city, and all of the other balloons around us! Photographers get ready! From take off to landing the flight is about two hours. Have a festive hug and farewell before we transfer to the airport this afternoon for flights home. B



Day 4 Abiquiu Valley & Ghost Ranch

Today we will explore the Abiquiu Valley and Ghost Ranch, site of famed artist Georgia O'Keeffe's renowned paintings. Abiquiu Valley is one of the most beautiful locations in north central New Mexico. The famous 21,000 acre Ghost Ranch provides wonderful hiking and

other opportunities. The Museum at Ghost Ranch features ancient exhibits from the Valley's Paleo Indian culture 10,000 years ago. The 10-foot long coelophysis dinosaur was discovered here in 1947. In the evening, enjoy a star party. B

Day 5 Bandelier - Santa Fe - Balloon Festival Fireworks

This morning, we'll depart for Bandelier National Monument. Here petroglyphs, dwellings carved into the soft rock cliffs, and stone walls reflect a culture that still survives in the surrounding

New Mexico Annular Eclipse Expedition

October 8 - 15, 2023

Including Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon & the international Balloon Fiesta!

Come join us for 8 days and 7 nights on a wonderful adventure through southern Colorado and New Mexico, culminating in the "Ring of Fire" Annular Eclipse October 14, 2023, from the summit of Sandia Peak near Albuquerque.

Our adventure will discover a land of dazzling mesas and plateaus, pinyon pine forests, star studded skies, and ancient adobe dwellings, with a rich Native American and Spanish cultural heritage. It will give you an opportunity to go aloft in a hot air balloon during a highlight event at the International Balloon Festival.

The Itinerary will include:

- The World Heritage Site of Mesa Verde National Park where Native Americans lived for 700 years in cliffside and mesa-top dwellings.
- Historic Durango, Colorado, a true western town near the San Juan Mountains in SW Colorado.
- Chaco Culture Nat'l Historical Park, the center of the ancient world of the Ancestral Pueblo Indians in the San Juan Basin, from 850 to 1250 AD.
- The Abiquiu Valley, an area rich in natural history and culture, from the Spanish Trail along the Rio Chama to the dinosaurs that roamed here 220 million years ago.
- Ghost Ranch, the sanctuary of famed painter Georgia O'Keeffe.
- Santa Fe, the oldest state capital in America, and now a renowned arts and cultural center.
- The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, to see dazzling traditional dances.



- The International Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, to see 500 hot air balloons aloft at once, including a chance for you to go aloft too!

Costs:

- \$5,495 per person twin share plus air fare to Durango with return from Albuquerque.
- Single Supplement: \$995 additional.
- Balloon Ride (Mass Ascension with up to 500 balloons aloft): \$795 per person.

What to Expect: A fascinating adventure including the Annular Solar Eclipse on October 14, 2023; remarkable Pueblo Indian archaeological sites; historic Ghost Ranch, Santa Fe, and the International Balloon Festival in Albuquerque! Mass Ascension balloon rides are at 7 am and will be reserved in advance. Weather should be good for the Eclipse but cloud cover could obscure it. The expedition will be terrific for travelers with a sense of adventure!

Expedition Fee Includes: Group transfers, exploration by coach or van; accommodations in first class hotels and lodges; breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners; group entrance fees; tip to coach driver; trip leadership by an excellent Betchart naturalist; administration.

Fee Does Not Include: Balloon Ride (quoted separately); air fare; independent transfers; options at Ghost Ranch; some meals, gratuities to expedition naturalist; travel insurance, or other personal expenses.

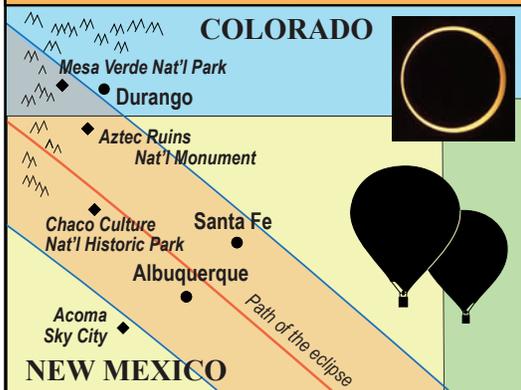
Deposit: \$1,000 per person; final payment due June 1, 2023 (120 days before departure).

Cancellation Penalty: Deposit is refundable less \$250 per person until 120 days before departure. Within 120 days of departure payments are nonrefundable. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered.



Path of the Annular Solar Eclipse

October 14, 2023



**For Reservations or
a Fully Detailed Brochure
please contact Taunya or Terri**

**Betchart Expeditions Inc.,
(800) 252-4910 (USA) or
(408) 252-4910 (Int'l)**

Email: info@betchartexpeditions.com
or BetchartTerri@gmail.com

This year, travel with *The Planetary Society* as we explore
Alaska Aurora Borealis

Come see the Greatest Light Show on Earth!

March 16 - 22, 2023

Dear Friends:

We invite you to join us as we explore the great beauty of Alaska in winter, and see the famed Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights, the greatest light show on Earth!

We will gather in **Anchorage, Alaska**, to begin our adventure. Then we will drive along the Chugach Mountains to **Seward** to see sea otters, seabirds, and a profusion of Alaska marine life. We will see Alaska's major land mammals including grizzlies, moose, and muskox.

The following day we will explore historic Talkeetna and then take the classic train journey from Talkeetna to

Expedition Fee: \$3,195 per person twin share + air fare to Anchorage with return from Fairbanks. Single accommodations are \$695 additional.

Deposit: \$500 per person.
Final payment is due January 10, 2023.

**For a Fully Detailed Brochure
or to make reservations**

please contact Terri at Betchart Expeditions:
(800) 252-4910 (USA) or (408) 252-4910 (Int'l)
email: info@betchartexpeditions.com or
BetchartTerri@gmail.com



Fairbanks to enjoy the **World of Ice Art Festival** and go to the best locations in the evening to look at the Aurora Borealis: **Mt. Aurora, Chatanika, and Creamer's Field.**

We will enjoy hospitality in rustic lodges while seeing the Aurora.

Also see sled dogs demonstrate this popular winter sport.

Leading this expedition will be popular astronomer

Dr. Tyler Nordgren. Tyler has led many Alaska Aurora Borealis Expeditions for us since 2016.

We invite travelers with an appetite for adventure and discovery to explore the day and night winter wonderland of our 49th state this winter!

THE PLANETARY SOCIETY

