

EASTERN SIERRA DISCOVERY

August 21-28, 2022



Join us and discover the wonderland of the Eastern Sierra Nevada in California from Mammoth Lakes to the top of the White Mountains, Mono Lake, and Bodie ghost town of gold mining fame. See California's "hot spot" - the Long Valley Caldera, and cross Tioga Pass to see Yosemite's high elevation Tuolumne Meadows. See the ancient bristlecone pines, 6,000 feet above the valley floor, with the entire Sierra Nevada Range rising to 14,000 feet to the west - among the most breathtaking views in California. See where hundreds of movies were filmed in the Alabama Hills, and venture up to the Whitney Portal to see the tallest peak in California.



For More Information:

Please contact Terri

(800) 252-4910

or go to

www.betchartexpeditions.com

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We invite you to join us as we explore the stunning landscapes of the Eastern Sierra, from the Mt. Whitney Portal, to the 11,000 foot White Mountains and Mono Lake, the renowned Pleistocene lake at the foot of the Eastern Sierra.

From our bases in Mammoth Lakes and Bishop, California, we'll also explore Devil's Postpile, the Long Valley Caldera (California's "hot spot"), and discover nearby cinder cones and volcanic fissures. We'll then venture north along the foot of the Sierra to Mono Lake and California's most famous ghost town, Bodie.

We will head up Tioga Pass to Tuolumne Meadows, the high country of Yosemite National Park, with grand views and granitic outcrops. Then return to the foot of the Sierra and visit lovely June Lake.

At the summit of the White Mountains, we'll see the oldest tree on earth, the bristle cone pines, and have a picnic with a sweeping view of the eastern expanse of the High Sierra (breathtaking barely describes the view!). South of Bishop, we'll also visit movie sets where Wild West movies were filmed. We'll then venture up to the Mt. Whitney Portal to see the summit of the highest peak in the Continental United States at 14,505 feet.

Itinerary

Day 1 To Mammoth Lakes, California
Sun Aug 21

Arrive at the Mammoth Lakes/Yosemite Airport. Continue on to the charming resort town of Mammoth Lakes and *Mammoth Creek Inn (5 nights)*. Welcome dinner and introduction by your leader, David Wimpfheimer, to our expedition activities. (D)

Day 2 Devil's Postpile National Monument & Mammoth Mountain
Mon Aug 22

This morning, we'll head to Devils Postpile National Monument which protects and preserves the Devils Postpile formation, 101-foot high Rainbow Falls, and pristine mountain scenery. The formation is a rare sight in the geologic world and ranks as one of the world's finest examples of columnar basalt. Its columns tower up to 60 feet and display a striking symmetry.

We'll stop at Mammoth Mountain, a 11,053 ft high lava-dome on the SW of the Long Valley Caldera which is magnificent for skiing in the winter. It has a magma system separate from the Long Valley Caldera and Mono-Inyo Craters. There was a dike intrusion beneath Mammoth Mountain in 1989 and recent volcanic unrest including earthquakes, ground uplift, and/or volcanic gas. Nearby we'll see the Mono-Inyo cinder cones which were from steam driven eruptions about 700 years ago. (L)

Day 3 Mono Lake and the Ghost town of Bodie
Tues Aug 23

Today, we'll drive north along famous Route 395 which edges the foot of the Sierra, to Mono Lake. This is one of the oldest lakes in the western hemisphere, estimated to be 760,000 years old. Mono Lake is hauntingly beautiful, reflecting the snowcapped Sierra Nevada in its shimmering blue waters. An immense inland sea, the lake fills a natural basin, 695 square miles in size. The lake's salty water not only makes you float like a cork, but sustains trillions of brine shrimp, attracting millions of migratory birds to feast on them. It is also the focus of a long conservation saga. We'll visit the Mono Basin Visitor Center and will walk to Panum Crater.

After we explore Mono Lake, we'll drive a short distance north to the famous Bodie ghost town, which is preserved in a State Park. In 1859 William Bodie and companions found placer gold and started a mining boom here that lasted a couple of decades. The ghost town is remarkably well preserved, and has a spectacular location. (L,D)

Day 4 Yosemite NP, Tuolumne Meadows, and June Lake
Wed Aug 24

We'll drive up the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada and over Tioga Pass this morning to Tuolumne Meadows. This Yosemite National Park high country is a wonderland of granite domes, meadows filled with wildflowers, and pine forests. We'll explore nearby trails on short walks, see stunning mountains and have a picnic lunch beside a stream. In late afternoon, we'll snake back down Tioga Pass to Route 395, and visit June Lake, one of the jewels of the eastern Sierra. (L)

Day 5 Long Valley Caldera
Thurs Aug 25

Today, we'll investigate the Long Valley Caldera east of Mammoth Lakes. This is second largest caldera in the US after Yellowstone (20 mi E to W by 10 mi N to S) and was the results of a super eruption about 760,000 years ago. The caldera was filled with a large lake which left water lines along the lake shore caldera walls. The lake eventually drained south through the Owens River Gorge which we'll see tomorrow. There have been numerous smaller eruptions in the last 100,000 years. It remains thermally active with hot springs and fumaroles. A geothermal system in the caldera fuels the Casa Diablo power plant which provides power for 40,000 homes.

We'll walk along the edge of Hot Creek to see the boiling hot pools, colorful sulfur deposits, and the colorful matts of bacteria surrounded by the Inyo National Forest. (L)

Day 6 White Mountains and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest
Fri Aug 26

Today, we'll head south to Bishop and into the White Mountains to visit the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, the oldest trees in the world. Some of these living trees exceed 4,000 years of age and exhibit spectacular growth forms of twisted and beautifully colored wood. The visitor center has wonderful displays of these ancient pines and short trails to some of the oldest trees in the forest. The weathered trees are beautifully photogenic and the views toward the Sierra are stunning. Time permitting, we'll visit Law's Railroad Museum. Built in 1927, the train has the only restored narrow gauge Brill car in North America. Accommodations at *Travelodge Bishop* (2 nights). (B,L)

Day 7 Bishop & Whitney Portal
Sat Aug 27

Today, we'll drive south of Bishop to Lone Pine to access the Mt. Whitney Portal road. The area is picturesque and en route we'll drive the Movie Road in the Alabama Hills to see where hundreds of western movies were shot. We'll take a short hike on the Mobius Arch Loop Trail to see the arches and other unusual rock formations. Then continue into the Sierra to the Whitney Portal (8,374 feet) at the base of the highest peak in the continental United States, Mt. Whitney (14,505 feet). We'll have tremendous views over the Owens Valley and Alabama Hills as we go. Farewell dinner in celebration of our Eastern Sierra Discovery adventure! (B,L,D)

Day 8. Fly home.
Sun Aug 28

After breakfast return to the Mammoth Lakes Airport and fly home. (B)

LEADERSHIP

Leading this expedition will be **David Wimpfheimer**. David is a naturalist and biologist with a passion for the natural history of the western states. His research has taken him from the forests of the Sierra Nevada to the seabird rookeries of Alaska and the deserts of the American Southwest. David has led numerous natural history trips for Betchart Expeditions in California and Alaska. He also worked for the Mono Lake Committee researching many aspects of the Mono Lake Basin. As a fundraiser, he rode his bike several times from Mono Lake to the offices of the Los Angeles Water District with a liter of water, along with other riders, to raise awareness and funds to save Mono Lake.

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Questions, Reservations, Deposits, and Payments: To reserve your place on the E Sierra Discovery Expedition, please phone **Terri at Betchart Expeditions Inc. (800) 252-4910** or email: **betchartterri@gmail.com**.

Please mail the reservation form and your deposit check for \$500 per person to: Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014. The final payment is due June 15, 2022.

Expedition Fee: \$3,895 per person twin share + air fare to Mammoth Lakes, California, RT. Singles are \$695 additional.

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport by 15-passenger vans; group airport out-transfer; accommodations twin share; breakfasts in Bishop, 6 lunches, 4 dinners; entrance fees; leadership, administration.

Expeditions Fee Does Not Include: Air fare from your home to Mammoth Lakes, California, RT; individual transfers; breakfasts in Mammoth (in a café across the street), 3 dinners; gratuities to expedition leaders; personal items such as laundry, alcoholic beverages; snacks, personal insurance; internet, or optional activities.

What to Expect: This expedition is for travelers who would like to explore the scenic wonderland of the Eastern Sierra, including ancient Pleistocene lake - Mono Lake - and California's "hot spot," the Long Valley Caldera. See the highest peak in the Continental United States (14,505 foot Mt. Whitney) from the Whitney Portal at 8,374 feet. Also visit Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park, and the historic gold mining ghost town Bodie. Visit an excellent railroad museum and the Alabama Hills where hundreds of western movies were filmed. Traveling by 15 passenger vans with excellent naturalists with expertise in the area will provide a superb experience. Walks of 1 to 2 miles daily will be at a reasonable pace for discovery and exploration. No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals please.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: All passengers should arrive in Mammoth Lakes by 4:00 pm August 21, 2022, and depart after 11 am on August 28th.

Accommodations: Are in comfortable first class hotels or lodges. Single accommodations are available for a supplement of \$695.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no refund after the 60-day period unless your place is resold, then only the \$100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.

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RESERVATIONS

#1661

YES! I/We want to join the **Eastern Sierra Discovery Expedition, August 21 – 28, 2022** offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Please reserve _____ double _____ twin or _____ single accommodations.

**Please mail to: E Sierra Discovery 2022
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. acts only as agent for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercises every care possible. Betchart can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident, or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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