

*See the Total Solar Eclipse August 21, 2017*

# Sun Valley Idaho Eclipse

*Tetons & Yellowstone • August 18-26, 2017*



**August 21, 2017**

*We invite you to join us on this fascinating adventure in the American West, including seeing the Total Solar Eclipse overlooking Sun Valley, Idaho!*

*On this expedition we will discover fascinating natural history and prehistoric sites from Boise to the Tetons. We'll learn about one of the greatest floods ever to occur in North America, plus prehistoric fossil beds along the Snake River and the volcanic world of Craters of the Moon and Yellowstone National Park!*

*At the Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey, we will see endangered raptors from North and South America that they are breeding to help preserve the species, including California condors. We will also learn about the Peregrine Fund's spectacular results in bringing peregrine falcons back from near extinction.*

*We will follow the course of the Snake River (the prehistoric drainageway of the Pleistocene*

*Great Salt Lake) to Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, which is one of the most important fossil sites in the world.*

*We will take the gondola up Bald Mountain at Sun Valley, made famous by Hemingway and other celebrities in the 1930's, and see the Total Solar Eclipse at its 9,150 summit! In this dramatic setting, we will see the Eclipse in all of its glory!*

*Near Pocatello, we will learn about the 2014 discovery of an intact Mammoth skeleton in American Falls Lake.*

*Our journey will continue to the innovative engineering and research lab near Idaho Falls for a special presentation about their research.*

*We will then cross into Jackson Hole to enjoy the scenic wonders and wildlife of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and a Wild West rodeo.*  
(over)

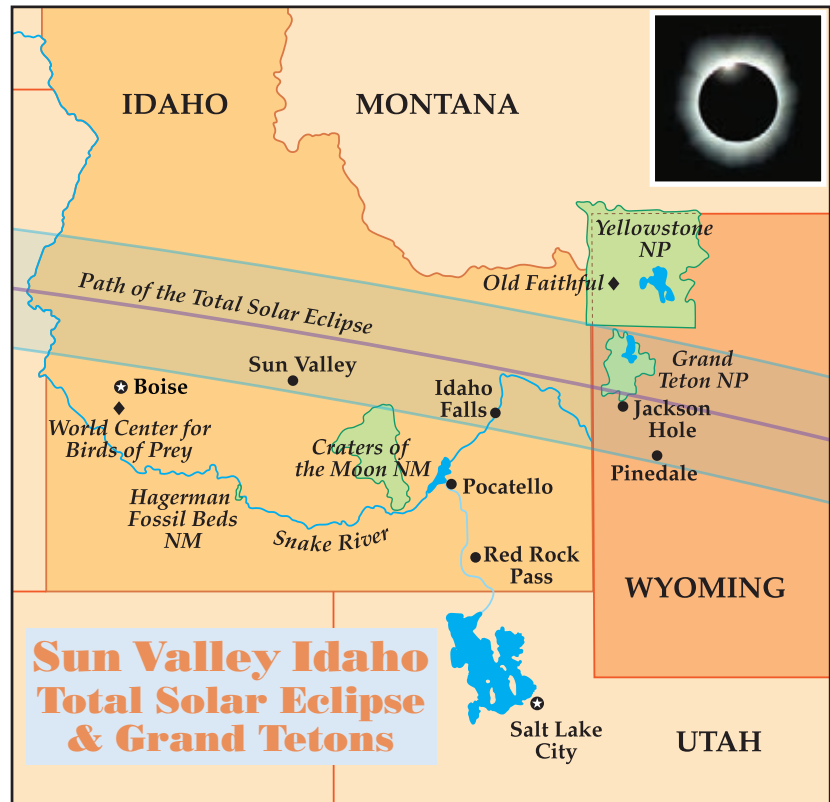
The trip will culminate atop 10,450-foot Rendezvous Mountain overlooking Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park.

We will ride in the new cable cars 4,000+ feet above the valley floor, with an incredible 360-degree view of Jackson Hole and the Tetons, and Yellowstone National Park to the north.

We hope you will join us for an unforgettable adventure!

*Margaret*

Best Regards,  
Margaret (M) Betchart, President  
Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
for AAAS, Sigma Xi, ACS  
& The Planetary Society



## Sun Valley Idaho Total Solar Eclipse & Grand Tetons

### LEADERSHIP

Leading this expedition will be **Dr. Lance Craighead**, a field ecologist with years of experience in bear research and conservation planning in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Lance is from the famous Craighead family that did years of bear research in Yellowstone National Park. He was the Executive Director of the Craighead Institute from 1994 to 2014 based in Bozeman, Montana. He has an M.Sc in Wildlife Ecology and Ph.D studying bear genetics.

Lance co-edited the book, "Conservation Planning: Shaping the Future" and has published numerous scientific papers, three book chapters, and one popular book: "Bears of the World." He looks forward to exploring the natural heritage of Idaho's Snake River Valley, the Tetons, and Yellowstone with you during this adventure.



### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 Arrive Boise, Idaho

Fly from your nearest airport to Boise, Idaho. Arrive by 4 pm. Transfer on own to our Hotel (2 nights). Enjoy a welcome social, trip orientation, and dinner this evening! (D)

#### Day 2 World Center for Birds of Prey & Great Bonneville Flood

This morning, we will visit the World Center for Birds of Prey, which was established by The Peregrine Fund just outside of Boise near the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area. In 1982 Betchart started bringing groups to the Snake River area, working with renowned eagle expert Morley Nelson and Bill Meiners, the founders of the Birds of Prey area. Their great passion for birds of prey and Morley's association with The

Peregrine Fund drew The Peregrine Fund to the Boise area for their World Center.

During our visit, we will learn about their work raising peregrines and other highly endangered raptor species, and their enormous success with the peregrines (which are no longer on the endangered species list). We will see birds of prey eye-to-eye and learn about mysteries of these spectacular birds!

This afternoon, we will have a special talk on the Great Bonneville Flood which thundered down the Snake River valley 13,000+ years ago at the end of the Pleistocene. This was one of the greatest floods ever in North America (second only to the great Missoula floods down the Columbia River) and reached depths of 150 feet.

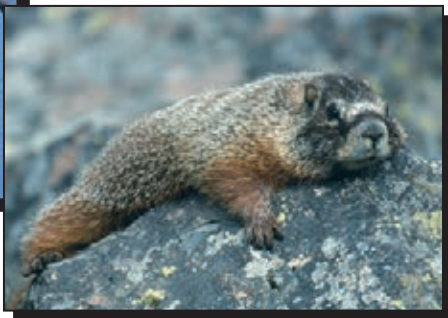


The Great Salt Lake is what remains of this huge inland sea. During our journey, we may have an opportunity to see boulders in the Snake River valley which were washed down by this huge flood which defined the landscape as we know it today. (B)

### Day 3 Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument & Snake River Float Trip

This morning, we'll drive east along the Snake River plain to the Hagerman Fossil Beds national natural landmark, which contains the world's richest fossil deposits from the late Pliocene epoch. The site includes some of the world's richest known deposits of fossil horses, *Equus simplicidens*, which is thought to link prehistoric and modern horses. Many of the fossils here represent species just before the last Ice Age, the Pleistocene, and the earliest contemporary flora and fauna. It is one of the six most important sites in the world for the fossil history of horses. The Hagerman horse is the oldest known horse fossil and most closely resembles the Grevy's zebra.

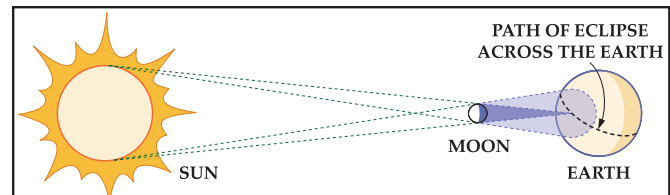
We will have a special excursion to one of the fossil sites. Here we can imagine the conditions



for the evolution of the North American horse, mastodon, camel, sloth, and saber-tooth cats as we explore the site and learn about their research and discoveries!

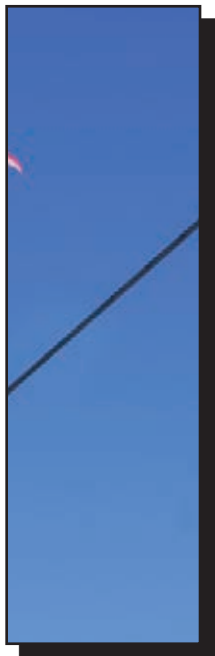
After a picnic lunch, we will enjoy an afternoon float trip in 12-passenger motorboats along the Snake River through the Hagerman area, and learn more about the massive fossil deposits here.

We will then drive north to Ketchum and Sun Valley. We will have a briefing with eclipse and photography hints this evening for the Total Solar Eclipse we will see tomorrow! *Best Western Ketchum*. (B,L)



### Day 4 Sun Valley Total Solar Eclipse & Craters of the Moon

This morning, we will ride the gondola to the 9,150 foot summit of Bald Mountain at Sun Valley for a commanding view of the renowned Sun Valley area, made famous by Ernest Hemingway and other celebrities in the 1930's. The alpine country has ground hugging plants that flourish in this harsh environment. After a short walk we will prepare for the August 21 Total Solar Eclipse. Everyone will be given eclipse viewing glasses. The eclipse will start about 9:13 am with maximum Totality at 10:30 am, lasting 1 minute 12 seconds. We will continue to view the Eclipse until the final moments,



then take the lift back down to Ketchum.

In the afternoon, we will head to the Craters of the Moon National Monument, a massive ocean of lava with cinder cones and islands of sagebrush vegetation which extends for about 100 miles just north of the Snake River plain. The Craters of the Moon is part of a huge lava flow linked to Yellowstone by moving underground hotspots which led to eruptions starting about 15,000 years ago and stopping only about 2,100 years ago. The central portion of these lava beds and fissure cones is now preserved as a national monument which we can explore today. *Idaho Falls Hotel (2 nights)*. B)

#### **Day 5 Mammoth Discovery & Experimental Breeder Reactor**

This morning, we will visit the Idaho Museum of Natural History and learn about the 2014 discovery of a nearly complete mammoth on the shores of American Falls Reservoir. We will then go see the US Experimental Breeder Reactor to learn about the research being conducted in the high desert to harness the energy of the atom. (B)

#### **Day 6 Snake River Canyon & Grand Teton National Park**

This morning we will follow the Snake River as it winds through the Caribou Mountains and along the Palisades Reservoir to the charming cowboy town of Jackson Hole. Mountain men, fur trappers, and settlers came to the valley in the early 1800's as they explored and homesteaded.

Today Jackson Hole is the center for exploring Grand Teton National Park and the other natural areas which protect scenic and wildlife wonders. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the 13,000 ft.

Teton Range as you take a look around Jackson Hole. Accommodations in *Jackson Hole (3 nights)*. Tonight we will see a rodeo with calf roping, bull riding, barrel racing, and cowboys and cowgirls strutting in their best attire. (B,D)

#### **Day 7 Yellowstone National Park**

Today we will explore the geologic wonders of Yellowstone that persuaded Congress to set aside this region in 1872 as the world's first national park—America's Best Idea. We look for the large mammals of Yellowstone, including elk, bison, and always be on the look out for grizzly bears. We will walk among the greatest concentration of geysers in the world, some of the 580 geysers in Yellowstone. First see Old Faithful, though not as faithful as before since the earthquakes in 1959 and 1983. The colors of the hot springs range dramatically because of gradients of temperature, acidity, sunlight and water flows. As we explore, always be on the look out for wildlife in and around the lodgepole pine forests. (B)

#### **Day 8 Grand Teton National Park & Rendezvous Peak**

The Teton Range is a fault-block mountain thrust upward along parallel fractures with sediments filling the valleys. Weathering by ice, snow, freezing, howling winds, and running water have sculptured the range, making it magnificent in all seasons and at all times of day. Today we will interpret the history, exquisite rock formations, and lush meadows. We will drive up Signal Mountain, formed by volcanic ash fall from one of the eruptions of the Yellowstone geologic hotspot. Take an excursion to the top of Rendezvous Peak for a stunning vista!



Then walk to the Town Square and visit the Jackson Museum and the National Museum of Wildlife Art. Enjoy a farewell dinner in celebration of our adventure! (B)

### Day 9 Jackson Hole & Home.

Group transfer to the Jackson Hole airport for flights home.



## RESPONSIBILITY

*Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, the American Chemical Society (ACS), and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we 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, quarantine, terrorism, 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 reserve the right 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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 Map by April Milne.

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## RESERVATIONS

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**Yes!** I/we want to join the **Sun Valley Idaho Total Solar Eclipse Expedition, August 18-26, 2017**, offered by **AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi, ACS, and The Planetary Society**. Please reserve \_\_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \_\_\_\_ AAAS \_\_\_\_ Sigma Xi \_\_\_\_ ACS \_\_\_\_ Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

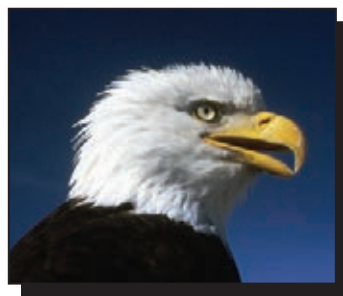
\_\_\_\_ Twin \_\_\_\_ Single Twin Share: \_\_\_\_ with a friend or

\_\_\_\_ Nonsmoker \_\_\_\_ Smoker \_\_\_\_ assign a roommate

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To: Sun Valley Idaho Eclipse 2017  
 Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
 17050 Montebello Road  
 Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**



**AAAS Travels  
ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions  
The Planetary Society**

BETCHART EXPEDITIONS Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

**FIRST CLASS**

**Sun Valley Idaho  
Total Solar Eclipse**

**Tetons & Yellowstone  
August 18-26, 2017**

**COSTS & CONDITIONS**

**Trip Fee:** \$4,595 per person twin share (plus air fare to Boise, Idaho, with return from Jackson, Wyoming).

**Expedition Fee Includes:** Land transport; accommodations twin share; meals as indicated; entrance fees; an excellent program of special lectures by a wildlife biologist, paleontologist, and geologist, special activities including a rafting trip, rodeo, and gondola to the summit of Bald Mountain to view the Eclipse; gratuities to guest lecturers and driver; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

**Expedition fee Does Not Include:** Air fare (quoted separately); independent transfers in Boise or Jackson; some meals; optional activities; gratuity to expedition leaders; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, beverages at meals, alcoholic beverages, snacks; or personal insurance.

**What to Expect:** This expedition is for travelers who would like to see the Total Solar Eclipse near Sun Valley, August 21, 2017, led by an excellent Betchart naturalist. We will see the Eclipse from the 9,150 foot summit of Bald Mountain, overlooking renowned Sun Valley, for a spectacular eclipse-viewing experience.

The whole trip is a rich natural history experience including special visits to the the World Center for Birds of Prey, at the renowned Hagerman Fossil Beds (where the world's most famous horse fossil was discovered), at the Craters of the Moon lava beds, at the Experimental Breeder Reactor to harness the energy of the atom, and at the 2014 find of an intact Mammoth fossil at American Falls Lake.

Also learn about the great Bonneville (Salt Lake) Flood and its impact on the Snake River plain, as well as the creation of the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Look for wildlife of interest from antelope to elk, grizzly bears, and bald eagles. Walks will be at a leisurely pace suitable for discovery and photography.

The expedition will be a fascinating experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure. *There are good prospects for seeing the eclipse; however there could be rain or clouds which obscure the eclipse.* In any case, we will have a grand adventure of discovery! (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals please.)

**Air Flights:** Please book your flights to arrive in Boise, Idaho on August 18, 2017 by 4 pm or earlier. Please book departing flights on the morning of August 26th. Additional pre-tour reservations in Boise or post-tour reservations in Jackson are available on request.

**Accommodations:** Are in comfortable first class hotels and western style cabins and motels, twin share with a private bath. Limited single accommodations are available for a supplement of \$895.

**Reservations, Deposits, & Payments:** Please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person with the reservation form to:

**Sun Valley Eclipse 2017, Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

The balance is due 150 days before departure.

**Questions:** Please call **Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

Telephone: (800) 252 4910 (USA)  
or (408) 252 4910 (International)  
Fax: (408) 252 1444  
Email: Info@betchartexpeditions.com

**Cancellations & Refunds:**

The initial deposit is refundable up to 150 days before departure less a handling fee of \$250 per person.

There is no refund after that period unless your place is resold, then only the \$250 per person handling fee is withheld.

There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features. Travel insurance is recommended.

