

## Sirius Travel Inc.

Presents

### 2012 ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE AND A TOUR OF THE TOP ASTRONOMICAL SITES OF THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

May 14 - 23, 2012

On May 20, 2012 an annular solar eclipse will occur over the American Southwest. On that date **Sirius Travel Inc.** will lead a small group of travelers to a site overlooking Horseshoe Bend<sup>1</sup> on the Colorado River at the head of the Grand Canyon. Starting and ending in Los Angeles, this tour will lead its participants to visit many active astronomical research facilities including the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Mt. Wilson Observatory (where we include a night of observing on the historic 60-inch!), Palomar Observatory, Kitt Peak National Observatory, and Lowell Observatory. We will also be traveling through some of the richest geologic areas of the United States as well as the heart of Indian Country. Along our route we will visit the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater, Sunset Crater, Painted Desert, Chaco Canyon, and Indian reservations - exploring ancient Indian sites along the way. The ancient people that lived in this area were deeply interested in astronomy and the movement of the heavens for both religious and agricultural reasons. Many of the ruins and petroglyphs that we will see along our route have well known astronomical alignments. This tour will fascinate anyone with an interest in astronomy, anthropology, history, or geology.



The eclipse on May 20 begins 00:24 UT (5:24pm locally). Eclipse maximum occurs at 1:34 UT (6:34pm locally). Sunset is at approximately 7:25pm and the sun will still be partially eclipsed at that time as it sets over the Horseshoe Bend. The astronomers and climatologists of Sirius Travel are always committed to selecting an observation site that will optimize our tour's chances of a successful eclipse viewing experience. April, May and June are the months with the greatest number of clear days in Arizona which

means that we will have the best possible viewing for this eclipse. Humidity in this region is also very low at this time of year which will make astrophotography easier to achieve among the outstanding vistas and open skies of the American Southwest.

**Sirius Travel Inc.** will have two experienced astronomer/scientist guides with the tour at all times. Sirius Travel will also provide all the equipment required to safely view a solar eclipse, including a small telescope(s) with the proper filters and eclipse viewing glasses

To reserve a spot on this remarkable tour, each traveler must submit a completed and signed reservation form (page 6) with initial deposit to: **Sirius Travel Inc., 3026 11th St., Boulder, CO 80304 USA**

<sup>1</sup> Horseshoe Bend original image - copyright Stephen Oachs. Images without note in this document are copyright of Sirius Travel.

**BRIEF ITINERARY**

**ANNULAR ECLIPSE TOUR SOUTHWEST  
MAY 14-23, 2012**

**Day 1, May 14, 2012: Arrive in Los Angeles (D)**

Travelers will convene from their points of origin at our hotel in Los Angeles. Welcome Dinner. Overnight Los Angeles.

**Day 2, May 15, 2012: Los Angeles (B, D)**

Leaving our hotel, we will travel to Pasadena where we will take a guided tour of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). JPL is NASA's lead center for robotic exploration of the solar system and we will visit "clean rooms" and control rooms made famous during Voyager's planetary flybys.

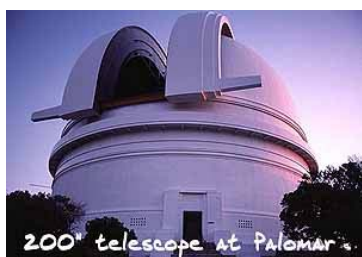


After leaving JPL we will stop by our hotel near the base of the mountain to check in and rest before heading up the mountain to Mt. Wilson Observatory (MWO) for our night of observing on the historic 60" telescope. Roughly a 45 minute drive, MWO is situated directly above Pasadena on a mountaintop approximately 5500 feet above sea level. After a guided tour of the facility we will enjoy a picnic dinner at the observatory. Overnight La Crescenta.



**Day 3, May 16, 2012: Los Angeles – San Diego (B, L)**

This day will be taken at a slower pace due to the previous night's activities. In the late morning the tour will leave the hotel and travel south to Palomar Observatory. Palomar is a fully operating facility and is only open for visiting during the day. We will tour Palomar for a few hours before continuing on to our hotel near Mt. Laguna in the mountains East of San Diego.



**Day 4, May 17, 2012: Travel to Tucson (B,D)**

Leaving our hotel, we will continue east on Interstate 8 through the Mojave Desert, passing through the Imperial Sand Dunes - a favorite Hollywood filming site for anything that requires a desert: *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Return of the Jedi*, etc. We will drive directly to Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) and tour the facility. KPNO is the foremost optical observatory in the continental U.S. with observers from all over the world vying for telescope time. After our tour we will head down the mountain to our hotel and dinner in Tucson, Arizona.



**Day 5, May 18, 2012: Tucson – Flagstaff (B, L)**

In the morning, we will travel north to Biosphere 2 and tour this fascinating facility. Biosphere 2 is an ambitious project originally meant to test the feasibility of humans living in a closed eco-system, such as on another planet. Within Biosphere 2 are several different biomes which researchers use to experiment on Earth systems on a relatively large scale. Inside there is a rainforest, a million gallon salt water ocean, a coastal fog desert, and four other wilderness ecosystems.



From Biosphere 2 we will proceed to Flagstaff Arizona, settle into our hotel and then tour Lowell Observatory, made famous by Dr. Percival Lowell who came searching for clear skies and devoted much of his time to observing Mars to see if there was any intelligent life there. Lowell Observatory is famous for housing a 24" Clark refracting telescope as well as the telescope used by Clyde Tombaugh to discover the planet Pluto. Overnight Flagstaff.

**Day 6, May 19, 2012: Flagstaff (B, L)**

In the morning we will visit Sunset Crater Volcanic National Monument and Wupatki National Monument. Sunset Crater is a natural volcanic feature, similar to features that we observe on other planets in our solar system. At Sunset Crater, Pueblos and cliff dwellings are so well preserved that it's hard to believe their builders moved on 700 years ago.

After lunch in Flagstaff the group will visit Barringer Meteor Crater, the most well known, best preserved meteorite crater on Earth. Used as a training ground for the Apollo astronauts to prepare for exploring the Moon, the crater was purchased by Barringer in 1903 and is currently owned in part by his descendants. Overnight Flagstaff.



**Day 7, May 20, 2012: ECLIPSE DAY! (B, D)**



In the morning, we will travel north from Flagstaff to the Grand Canyon. One of the United State's most famous natural wonders, the Grand Canyon has been carved out of the surrounding desert over the millennia by the water of the Colorado River as it descends from ice fields high in the Rocky Mountains. So large that it is visible from space, the Grand Canyon's scale is difficult to grasp from a rim-side vantage point! After spending time at various overlooks along the rim of the Grand Canyon, we will travel to our observation site overlooking the

Colorado River at Horseshoe Bend just outside of Page, AZ. Arizona does not employ daylight savings time and is UTC -7. The eclipse begins 00:24 UT (5:24pm locally). Eclipse maximum<sup>2</sup> occurs at 1:34 UT (6:34pm locally).



Sunset is at approximately 7:25pm and the sun will still be partially eclipsed at that time as it sets over the Horseshoe Bend of the Colorado River. After the eclipse we will have dinner and overnight in Page, AZ.

**Day 8, May 21, 2012: Page - Farmington (B, L)**

After breakfast we will travel from Page through the Navajo reservation, stopping along the way to explore points of interest such as Four Corners, where four states intersect at one point: Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. Today, artisans of the Navajo continue to work in the traditions of their ancestors and their work is collected for sale in the reservation-run trading posts. The Navajo are famous for their beautiful and distinctive basketry, pottery, weaving, and metalwork. Following Four Corners, we will travel to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mesa Verde. Mesa Verde is best known for its cliff dwellings including Cliff Palace, which is thought to be the largest cliff dwelling in North America. Overnight Farmington, NM.



**Day 9, May 22, 2012: Chaco Canyon (B, D)**

Chaco Culture National Historical Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site hosting the densest and most exceptional concentration of pueblos in the American Southwest. We will travel from Farmington to the parks location in a remote canyon cut by the Chaco Wash. Containing the most sweeping collection of ancient ruins north of Mexico, the park preserves one of the United States' most important precolumbian cultural and historic areas. Evidence of archaeoastronomy at Chaco has been proposed, with the Sun Dagger petroglyph at Fajada Butte a popular example. Many Chacoan buildings may have been aligned to capture the solar and lunar cycles, requiring generations of astronomical observations and centuries of skillfully coordinated construction. Overnight in Farmington.

**Day 10, May 23, 2012: Return to Los Angeles (B)**

Return by domestic flight from Farmington to the Los Angeles International Airport by 5pm.

<sup>2</sup> Annular Eclipse image - copyright Stefan Seip.

**TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES**

- Small group size: Our group size is limited, 15-22 guests, for an enjoyable and unique travel experience.
- Hotels: 9 nights of accommodation at quality hotels
- Flights: 1 domestic flight included
- 60" Telescope: One observing session on the historic Mt. Wilson Observatory telescope
- Meals: all breakfasts and 9 lunches/dinners
- Vehicle: Full size A/C Motorcoach.
- Guides: Local guides at the astronomical facilities. Two Sirius guides traveling with the group at all times.
- Entrance Fees: Included
- Eclipse viewing glasses: Included
- Equipment: Sirius Travel will provide telescope(s) (with solar filter) for safe eclipse viewing.

**RESERVATIONS, CANCELLATIONS, REFUNDS, AND PAYMENTS**

To secure your space, an \$800 per person reservation fee with a completed reservation form is required. A second payment of \$1000 is due January 14, 2012. The final balance is due March 14, 2012.

For cancellations made before January 14, 2012, there will be a \$100 per person cancellation fee. For cancellations made from January 15, 2012 – March 14, 2012, there will be an \$800 per person cancellation fee. There are no refunds after March 15, 2012. Air cancellation terms are additional.

**SEAT ASSIGNMENTS & FREQUENT FLIER**

**MILES**

Advance seat assignments may not be possible due to airline policies, and should not be expected. Most airlines secure advance seat blocks for groups, but don't assign specific people to specific seats until airport check-in.

Frequent Flyer miles may sometimes be accrued, but cannot be used for upgrades or free tickets in group blocks.

**TOUR PACKAGE RATES**

<i>Package</i>	<i>Rate per person</i>
Adult (12+), dbl occ.	\$3,650.00
Single Supplement	\$700.00

*This tour begins and ends in Los Angeles, California.*

**NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PACKAGE**

Items of a personal nature, passport and visa fees, gratuity to local guides, airport taxes, excess baggage fees.

**INSURANCE**

Trip cancellation, health, and accident insurance are recommended but not required. It can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip. We recommend TravelGuard trip insurance ([www.travelguard.com](http://www.travelguard.com)) and we recommend that all travelers purchase their insurance within 7 days of their initial reservation to take advantage of any pre-existing condition clause.

**VISAS & PASSPORTS**

If you are joining this tour from outside of the United States and depending on your country of origin, a visa and passport may be required to enter the US. The responsibility to learn and meet the international requirements for entrance falls on the individual traveler. This tour will begin and end in Los Angeles, CA.

**<sup>3</sup>Notes:**

1. *A minimum of 15 people must sign up for this tour to take place. If fewer than 15 people are signed up on March 14, 2012 this tour will be cancelled and clients will receive a full refund at that time.*
2. *Due to age restrictions viewing on the 60" at Mt. Wilson, there is a lower age limit of 12 years old on this tour. Those aged 12 and up are considered to be adults in terms of pricing and airline fares.*



<sup>3</sup>Photo: Goblin Valley with Milky Way – copyright Bret Webster

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**CANCELLATIONS:** Sirius Travel Inc. will confirm bookings, changes, and cancellations in writing. **Cancellation fees apply in the amount described in the “Reservations, Cancellations, Refunds & Payments” section of this contract.**

**CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT:** Payment and/or any other monies received constitutes agreement to these Terms & Conditions. Payments to Sirius Travel shall be made in US Dollars & shall be received by Sirius Travel per the specified deadline dates. Late payments will incur a \$50 fee and may result in the non-refundable cancellation of some or all services booked. The sender is responsible for all bank fees incurred in connection with the transfer of funds or payment of checks. Payment can be made by Personal Check, Cashier’s Check, Money Order, or Wire/Cable transfer. Some deposits may be paid via PayPal.

**RESPONSIBILITIES & LIABILITY:** In common with other companies, Sirius Travel Inc. acts only as an agent for passengers in arranging tour and transportation as appropriate and agreed in each itinerary. As such, Sirius Travel Inc. shall not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any company or person engaged in conveying the passengers.

*Sirius Travel Inc. Reserves the right to decline, accept or to retain any person as a member of a trip.*

If the contract between STI and the passenger, on the one hand, and/or the designated carrier, on the other hand, is canceled for any reason whatsoever, all partial or full payments made for the trip will be refunded per the cancellations section of the contract with no future obligation on the part of the operator.

The right is specifically reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in a similar category or to change schedules without prior notice, should circumstances so require.

Sirius Travel Inc. does not own or operate, nor is it an agent for any of the firms which will provide goods and services for the trip or for any option which may be available in connection with the trip (including but not limited to optional sightseeing, car rental, etc.) and Sirius Travel Inc. has not priced the trip to allow Sirius Travel Inc. to guarantee against failure of any such firms. Accordingly, participant(s) agree to seek remedies directly with the supplier, and not to hold Sirius Travel Inc. or sponsoring organization liable, in the absence of its negligence, for any loss, injury, delay or expense which results directly or indirectly from any action or omission, whether negligent, criminal or otherwise, of any entity providing goods and services for the trip or any available option (e.g. without limitation, the quality of services or any flight delays). Participant(s) also agree not to hold Sirius Travel Inc. or sponsoring organization liable for circumstances beyond its control (e.g. force majeure, terrorism, war, or acts of God). Participant(s) acknowledge that neither Sirius Travel Inc. nor its agents have made any representation or promises with the respect to the travel described Herein except as expressly set forth in Sirius Travel’s literature, unless such agreement is in writing and signed by an officer of Sirius Travel Inc. Sirius Travel Inc. accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay, changes, or cancellations in train, bus, ship, airplanes or other services, sickness, weather, war, terrorist acts, strikes, quarantine, or other causes. Baggage is transported at the client’s risk throughout the trip.

## Reservation Form

### 2012 ANNULAR ECLIPSE TOUR SOUTHWEST US (MAY 14-23)

-- Please provide one reservation form for each traveler –  
 -- All information is required --  
 -- Keep a copy of this page for your records--

Names must be given exactly as they appear on the passenger's passport/ID, otherwise additional penalties, re-issuing fees, or cancellation of airline reservations with full loss of monies paid may apply.

Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency contact:**  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like the following tour package and supplement:**

- Adult (12+) dbl occ. (\$3650)                       Single Supplement (\$700)

<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a payment of USD \$ _____ <i>Checks should be sent payable to <b>Sirius Travel Inc.</b></i> <b>3026 11<sup>th</sup> St., Boulder, CO, USA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> I have made a money transfer of USD \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I have paid USD \$ _____ via PayPal to Sirius Travel on _____(date)
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**By signing below I confirm that I have read and agree to the above responsibilities and the terms and conditions of this tour.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Traveler (Parent/Guardian if under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

