

Institute for Creation Research Presents
YOSEMITE AND DEATH VALLEY FIELD STUDY TOUR
September 16-23, 2006

Rev: 060322

DETAILS CONCERNING THE TOUR

History of ICR Tours: Since 1980, the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) has been leading field study tours to Grand Canyon. In 1989, we began offering educational tours to Mount St. Helens and, in 1995, to Yellowstone National Park. Originally conducted as research projects of faculty, the excursions to Grand Canyon became field studies of ICR graduate students (listed as Geology 506/Biology 507 in the Graduate School catalog). In 1983, the Grand Canyon trips were offered for the first time to friends of ICR not enrolled in the Graduate School. Interest in these trips was extraordinary, and ICR developed a spring field study tour around investigations in the Canyon involving backpacking groups, a bus tour, and a raft trip. During the past twenty-six years, almost two thousand people have accompanied ICR on Christ-centered educational tours. Participants without technical scientific training (teachers, pastors, homemakers, retired people, businessmen, contractors, high school students, etc.) have discovered God's handiwork on all of our tours.

ICR also offers field study tours to the Galapagos Islands and now, our newest tour, to Yosemite and Death Valley.

Purpose of the Tour: To provide an outdoor learning experience where supporters of ICR and other interested participants may observe, contribute to, and evaluate a developing interpretation of past and present physical geological and biological processes at Yosemite and Death Valley National Parks from a creationist, catastrophist perspective.

Participants: Adult men and women eighteen years and older who have made application, may participate upon acceptance of their applications. Children (12 years and older) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and demonstrate maturity and responsiveness to gentle adult instruction, and possess physical stamina.

Faculty:

- John D. Morris, Ph.D. President of ICR, Professor of Geology
- Larry Vardiman, Ph.D. Chairman of ICR Astrogeophysics Dept.
- Steve Austin, Ph.D. Chairman of ICR Geology Dept.
- Ken Cumming, Ph.D. Academic Dean, Chairman of ICR Biology Dept.
- John Baumgardner, Ph.D. ICR Professor of Geophysics & Director of the ICR Scientific Computing Center
- Andrew Snelling, Ph.D. ICR Geologist
- Bill Hoesch, M.S. ICR Geologist
- Cindy Gabay Tour Coordinator

Guidebooks: Tour participants will receive a Yosemite-Death Valley guidebook several weeks before departure. In it will be a day-by-day road log and several articles by ICR faculty on specific topics of geology, biology, and tectonics that are unique to the region.

Transportation: Luxury chartered buses will carry us. Commentary on the bus will be provided by the ICR faculty beginning in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Beginning the tour: The tour begins on Saturday, September 16, 2006 at the Hampton Inn Tropicana, located at 4976 S. Dean Martin Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89118 (702) 948.8100. The hotel provides shuttle service on demand, which means you must call the hotel when you arrive at the airport. There will be a kiosk in the baggage claim area for all the hotels which offer shuttle service. You will look for the Hampton Inn Tropicana hotel phone and call for a shuttle.

Tour registration will begin for those arriving on Friday night (Sept. 15) from 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the hotel lobby area. Registration will resume on Saturday, from 7:00 – 8:00 am.

Orientation will begin at 9:00 AM (MST) *SHARP!* Incoming flights on Saturday should arrive **NO LATER** than 8:30 AM. *(If this is not possible, see the section “Las Vegas Accommodations”).* Orientation will end at 11:00 am followed by an ICR host lunch. Promptly, at noon, we will board the buses for a drive to Frenchman’s Mountain to begin the tour. *The orientation in Las Vegas should be considered an essential part of the tour.*

Ending the Tour: The tour will conclude at the Sheraton Gateway San Francisco International Airport Hotel, located at 600 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, CA 94010 -(650) 340.8500, on Saturday, September 23, 2006, where we will enjoy a fellowship banquet, a time of reflection, and fellowship as well as a last night’s stay at the hotel (*included in tour price*). The hotel offers shuttle service to the airport for your flight home on **Sunday, September 24th**.

Return flights home should be scheduled for Sunday, September 24, 2006.

Please Note: The tour originates in Las Vegas, NV and ends in San Francisco, CA. Your flight will be an “open jaw” flight, which means you will arrive in one city and depart from another.

Las Vegas Accommodations: We have secured a discounted rate on a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn Tropicana for our guests who may need to arrive in Las Vegas on Friday, September 15. This price is \$120 (not including tax) for single or double occupancy. These rooms are not included in the price of the tour. (We will make every effort to secure a roommate to share the cost of this room should you desire us to do so).

Hotels/Motels on the Tour: We have reserved space at the finest motels/hotels available for each night of the tour. Great care has been taken to ensure pleasant surroundings for a good night’s sleep. Baggage handling will be provided for one large bag per person. In addition, ICR staff will be ready to help as you have need.

Meals on the Tour: Meals included in the price of this tour are; two breakfasts, one lunch, five box lunches, and four dinners (fellowship banquet included). All other meals will be your responsibility.

Rocks, Fossils, Plants, and Animals: The tour route will vary in elevation from 10,000 feet above sea level to 282 feet below, and participants will experience plant and animal communities of greater diversity than on any other ICR tour. Flood generated granites of Yosemite, crystalline basement rocks in Death Valley, pumice of the Long Valley – Mono Craters area and Flood-deposited limestone of southern Nevada are a few of the rocks you will see and learn about.

Weather at Yosemite National Park: Our tour will take place during the summer months, June – October. Typically, the weather will be warm to hot, with occasional rain (thundershowers, especially at the higher elevations, such as Tuolumne Meadows - 8,600 feet). Temperature decreases with increasing elevation, so sites such as Tuolumne Meadows (67°) will be much cooler than Yosemite Valley. Attached is a temperature chart showing the average maximum, minimum, and amount of precipitation for each month in Yosemite Valley (*see page 9*). For more information on weather conditions, the National Park Service’s weather website is: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/now/conditions.htm>

Please keep in mind the weather in the park can change rapidly anytime during the year. It is wise to pack for any season with clothing that can be “layered”, ready to peel off or add on as the weather dictates. **Always include some kind of rain gear, such as a hooded raincoat or poncho.**

Weather at Death Valley National Park: Death Valley is a land of extremes. Its unique geographic features cause desert conditions to become extreme. It is one of the hottest places on earth, with temperatures averaging well over 100° F. At 282 feet below sea level, it is the driest place in North America, with an average rainfall of only 1.96 inches per year. In September, the temperature will be hot (*please see “weather & climate” sheets from the National Park Service, on pages 7 and 8*), so please bring comfortable clothing which will provide sun protection as well as a broad-brimmed hat, sturdy walking shoes, sunglasses, water bottle, and of course, sun screen lotion. For more information on weather, the National Park Service’s weather website for Death Valley is - <http://www.nps.gov/deva/pphtml/newsdetail2170.html>

Note: Remember this tour is about extremes and that includes the weather, so please be prepared for hot, cold, and rain!

Graduate Course Credit: One semester unit of graduate credit is offered for students participating in the tour who have been admitted to the ICR Graduate School and who turn in a tour research paper. To obtain an application for the Graduate School, write to the Registrar at ICR. It is necessary that credit students apply early, and they must pay an additional \$50 credit fee, plus a \$30 graduate school application fee.

Tour Price: The fee of \$1995 per person includes luxury touring coach, first-class motels (double occupancy), admission to all parks and attractions, instruction and guidebook. Meals included are; two breakfasts, one lunch, five box lunches, and four dinners. Single occupancy fee is \$2435. (*All fees are payable in U.S. dollars*).

NOTE: Each applicant may **deduct \$50** when full payment is mailed to ICR by June 1, 2006.

Application Process and Deadlines: Since this is a new tour, we expect it to fill rapidly. We suggest you return an application (one per person) and a non-refundable deposit of \$300 each at your earliest opportunity. If you find it impossible to respond prior to July 15, 2006, please call to determine space availability.

Refunds for Cancellations: A full refund of all monies paid to ICR in excess of the nonrefundable deposit will be made, should you find it necessary to cancel, if ICR is able to fill your space with another qualified guest. If your cancellation results in an unused reserved space, a partial refund will be made of all moneys paid to ICR less our actual out-of-pocket expenses and the nonrefundable deposit. The nonrefundable portion of this trip is \$300.

Note: If, in ICR’s sole judgment, interest in the tour is insufficient to warrant offering it, all monies paid by guests will be refunded in full. Notice of cancellation, if necessary, will be made no later than August 1, 2006. Please do not purchase nonrefundable airline tickets prior to this date.

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs: Out of respect for others, we request that you refrain from the use of tobacco or alcohol. Smoking is allowed in your room if you select “single occupancy” and notify us in advance of your need for a smoking room. No smoking will be allowed on the buses.

Tour Itinerary: Please refer to the attached itinerary. In addition, you will want to be sure to bring your camera and walking shoes. We will make plenty of stops along the way for pictures, short walks and light hiking opportunities. Be sure to bring a water bottle or canteen.

Tips: Other than those associated with the meals you order, the ONLY tip we ask you to consider is one for your bus driver. It is customary to tip the driver approximately \$2.50 per day, per person. Your driver will be with us the full eight days.

In Conclusion: We hope that you can tell that all of us at ICR sincerely enjoy the part that we play on our tours. Friends from past years continue to rave about our days together, and we are confident that those who join us on this brand new field study tour of the Yosemite and Death Valley National Parks will be similarly blessed. We hope you will be one of them!!

For further information/questions:

Relative to	Contact
General Questions..... And Details of the Bus Tour	Tour Coordinator, Cindy Gabay (619) 596.6034 cgabay@icr.org
Graduate School Credit.....	Dr. Ken Cumming (619.596.6027) kcumming@icr.org

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Institute for Creation Research

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**Note: Using ICR's voice mail
you are able to leave a message 24 hours a day**

