



NARGS



Sierra Nevada Wildflowers

An Exploration of the Alpine Flora of California

July 5-12, 2014

Trip Leaders:

Stew Winchester

Horticulturalist, Professional Botanist, and Natural Landscape Interpreter

John Baston

Former National Park Ranger and Guide for Mountain Travel Sobek

ITINERARY

We have planned this trip to coincide with the normal yearly peak bloom of this region. But as we all know one year can be very different than another in terms of temperature, rainfall, and perfusion of the bloom. With this in mind we have considered options to the proposed itinerary and will remain flexible as to the exact location of our field trips. To our advantage the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada is fairly steep and a full range of habitats can be accessed in a relatively short distance. Species lists for the areas we visit as well as a suggested reading list will be provided.

We will provide various options each day that should suit everyone's desired level of exertion. There will be options to move slowly and closely examine the flora as well as to hike longer distances in the mountains and cover more terrain.

Saturday July 05 Arrive in Reno, Nevada

Not so long ago it took several months with a wagon train to get to Reno. Now we can get there in one day! There are shuttles every half an hour from the Reno Airport that will bring you to the Peppermill. You should try to arrive in Reno by 5pm. Here we will begin our trip, meet other trip participants and NARGS staff and gather for a welcome dinner.

Peppermill Resort Hotel (Dinner..)



Sunday July 06 Tahoe Rim

We will travel up the eastern escarpment of the Sierra Nevada towards Lake Tahoe. This route traverses several thousand feet of elevation change. Depending on the bloom we have various locations planned for stops along the way. We will try to stop at Mount Rose (10,778') along the way to Squaw Valley.

Village at Squaw Valley (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Monday July 07 Top of the Mountain at Squaw Valley

We ride the lift to the top of Squaw Mountain (8,200'). From there we can explore subalpine rock gardens. There are ample opportunities to stroll around casually in this beautiful place or to take on a more ambitious hike.

Village at Squaw Valley (Breakfast, Lunch...)



Tuesday July 08 Carson Pass

We will drive south and up towards Carson Pass (8574') to explore the flora near Lake Winnemucca and up towards Round Top Peak. We can have a visit to Grover Hot Spring in the afternoon and soak in the hot mineral waters.

Tonight we stay in a Rustic Mountain Inn.

Woodfords Inn (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Wednesday July 09 Virginia Lakes

Our Exploration continues southward to Virginia Lakes (9770'). There is a restaurant there in the beautiful high setting where we can have lunch. Hiking can be as ambitious as individuals like. We continue past Mono Lake on the way to Mammoth Lakes (7,880') where we will stay for three nights.

The Village at Mammoth (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Thursday July 10 Yosemite National Park

We will drive to the top of Tioga Pass, at the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park. The mountains rise precipitously to the west and we can drive up to the 9,943' pass and explore this famous area known as Tuolumne Meadows.

The Village at Mammoth (Breakfast, Lunch..)



Friday July 11 Little Lakes Valley

From Mammoth Lakes we will take a day trip to Little Lakes Valley. The road ends at 10,300' and from there we explore the rock gardens of this beautiful place.

The Village at Mammoth (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Saturday July 12 Return to Reno on HWY 395

HWY 395 is certainly one of the most scenic roads in the United States. The rising Eastern Light on the Sierra Nevada has been the subject matter of photographers ever since the camera came to California. We return by this scenic drive directly to Reno. We should arrive in Reno about 2pm.

You can depart on afternoon flights (please book after 3pm).

(Breakfast, Lunch..)

ITINERARY INCLUDES

One night **Peppermill Resort** in Reno, Nevada

Two nights **The Village at Squaw Valley** near Lake Tahoe, California

One night **Woodfords Inn** near Carson Pass

Three nights **Juniper Springs Resort** in Mammoth Lakes, California

All **transportation** in two 15 Passenger vans (with luggage trailers)

Two **professional driver /guides and a Mountain Travel Sobek guide**

A **professional regional botanist / naturalist, Stew Winchester**

Use of **Conference rooms** for slide shows and presentations

Meals as noted in the itinerary

YOU WILL ARRANGE

Air to and From Reno, Nevada

Arrive in Reno, Nevada by July 05 (ideally by 5pm)

Leave Reno, Nevada on July 12th (after 3pm) If this is too late for you to fly out you should consider staying the night in Reno. We will provide a list of suggested lodgings. As it is in Nevada there are many casinos and entertainment and can be a fun place.

The cost for this trip is **\$ 3800** per person (16-22 Trip participants)

BOOKING

To reserve a place on the trip please call Laura Parent at Mountain Travel Sobek 510-594-6041. You can also reach other booking agents at 510-594-6000.

For questions about the trip you can contact John Baston at Mountain Travel Sobek. 510-594-6035.

There is a \$400 non-refundable deposit. A complete payment schedule and other trip details will be sent to you upon booking.