

Travel with The Planetary Society! Discover the
GRAND CANYON
& see the Annular Solar Eclipse, May 20, 2012!
May 14-21, 2012

Dear Members & Friends:

Come join us as we explore the spectacular **Canyonlands** and see the **Annular Solar Eclipse** over the Grand Canyon, **May 20, 2012!**

With the superb leadership of a geological expert and naturalist, we will explore the dramatic wonderlands of **Zion National Park**, **Bryce Canyon National Park**, and the **Grand Canyon**, including a half-day float trip on the Colorado River.

Our adventure begins in Las Vegas. We will then depart for Zion National Park and the **St. George Dinosaur Discovery** site where hundreds of tracks were found in 2000. A land of exceptional scenic grandeur, Zion includes an exciting desert plant community and pinyon-juniper woodland. It is the lowest in elevation of the three parks we will visit (at approximately 4,000 feet) and represents a significant chapter in the geologic story of the Southwest.

From Zion, we will head to **Bryce Canyon National Park**, an erosional fantasy of crumbling cliffs, spires, and pinnacles in rich colors, named after the original Mormon pioneer settler. A series of erosional amphitheatres on the southeast edge of a plateau, Bryce possesses intricate sculptures due to weathering by wind, running water, and frost. The rim at Bryce is from 8,000-9,000 feet. At night, the skies are a feast of stars because of the exceptionally clear skies.

The excitement will build today as we drive southeast from Bryce to the **North Rim of the Grand Canyon**. We will drive through great forests of lodgepole and ponderosa pines as you approach the Grand Canyon. The splashes of color on the landscape en route are just a teaser of what awaits you! We will explore the rim and enjoy the fantastic views.

From Page, we will enjoy a **half-day float trip** from Glen Canyon Dam along the upper part of the Colorado



River in the Grand Canyon. (This is on gentle water!) We will travel on a 22-passenger inflatable motorized river raft for 15 miles down the Colorado River. This river-level view of the canyon will be a delightful experience, and will include a short hike to see ancient petroglyphs.

We will also explore the geologic and ecologic significance of the Grand Canyon at the South Rim with more fantastic views and nature walks.

This trip will culminate with the Annular Solar Eclipse over the Grand Canyon... a once in a lifetime opportunity! We invite you to join us!

Sincerely,

Bill Nye
The Science Guy®
Executive Director



Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Las Vegas

All passengers arrive in Las Vegas today by 4 pm. Transfer to the *Ramada Hotel* by hotel shuttle. Welcome social, dinner, and introduction to the expedition. D

Day 2 Dinosaur Discovery & Zion National Park

This morning, we will drive to Zion National Park via St. George, Utah, originally founded for cotton farming by Mormon pioneers 150 years ago. En route, we will visit the St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm (just discovered in February 2000) where a visitor center now protects this amazing find. Here we'll see hundreds of 13-18 inch long dinosaur tracks of *Dilophosaurus*-like dinosaurs found in 200 million-year-old sandstone.

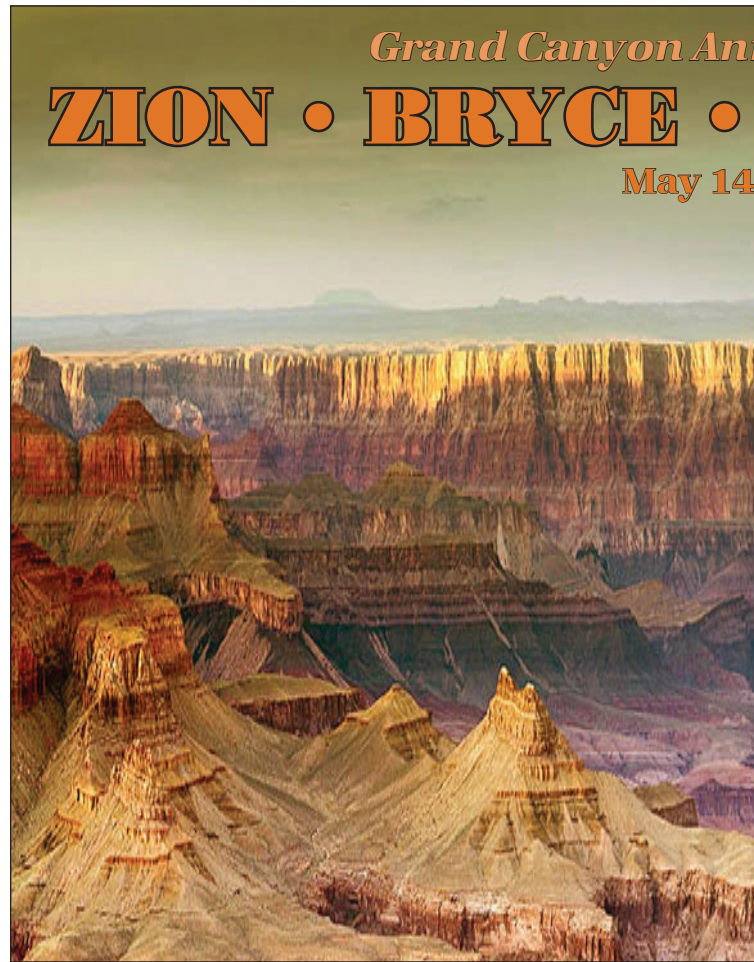
We will continue to Zion, whose cathedral-like quality inspired its name, "the heavenly city of God." Here the red Navajo Sandstone is 1,800 feet thick and over 150 million years old. Magnificent rock temples, thrones, and domes tower high overhead. Enjoy an afternoon walk up the narrows of the Virgin River. Overnight at *Cliffrose Lodge and Gardens*. B,L

Day 3 Zion & Bryce Canyon National Park

This morning, we will explore Zion, including a walk along the Virgin River or up the Emerald Pools Trail. After a picnic lunch, we will head to Bryce Canyon National Park, an erosional fantasy of crumbling cliffs, spires, and pinnacles in a rainbow of colors. Intricate rock "hoodoos" punctuate the landscape. The ancient Paiutes believed they were the Legend People whom their trickster "Coyote" had turned to stone. We will explore the park on short walks and hikes. At night, the skies are a feast of stars because of the exceptionally clear skies. *Best Western Bryce Canyon*. B,D

Day 4 Bryce Canyon & North Rim of the Grand Canyon

Our first view this morning will be of the Fairyland, a Bryce landscape of multi-colors in the early morning light. We will walk



below towering spires, walls of multi-colored sandstone cliffs, highlighted by spring wild flowers. We will also see some of the oldest trees in the world, the Bristlecone pines, near the end of the road at 9,000 feet. This afternoon as we drive southeast from Bryce to Kanab, Jacob Lake, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. We will drive through great forests of lodgepole and ponderosa pines as you approach the Grand Canyon. Watch the sunset over the Grand Canyon as it highlights the landscape. *Kaibab Lodge*. B,D

Day 5 North Rim of the Grand Canyon

This morning we will explore the Cape Royal and Imperial Point regions of the Grand Canyon. We can see glimpses of bright Angel Creek far below. The Grand Canyon is unmatched in its overall vastness, topographic complexity, striking landforms, and vast range of vivid colors. It is almost 300 miles long and between 4 to 15 miles across. The depth of the Canyon ranges from 3,500 to 6,000 feet below the North Rim. The oldest rocks at the bottom of the Canyon are over 2 billion years old and offer a glimpse of the early stages of plant evolution. Higher and younger layers have examples of trilobites, scales of ancient fishes, and dinosaur, reptile, and amphibian tracks. *Holiday Inn, Page*, near Glen Canyon Dam (2 nights). B,L

ular Solar Eclipse!

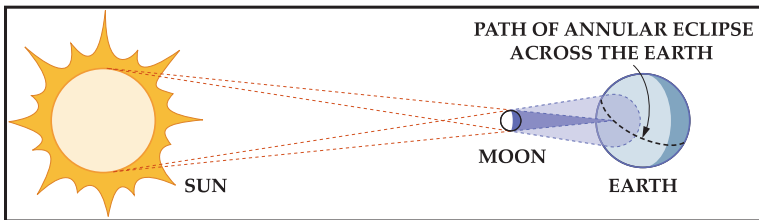
GRAND CANYON

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Day 6 Grand Canyon Float Trip & Antelope Canyon

From Page, we will enjoy a half-day float trip from Glen Canyon Dam along the upper part of the Colorado River into the Marble Canyon entrance to the Grand Canyon. (This is on gentle water!) We will travel on a 22-passenger inflatable motorized river raft for 15 miles down the Colorado River. This river-level view of the canyon will be a memorable experience, and will include a short hike to see ancient petroglyphs. After the float trip, we will explore Antelope Canyon with Navajo guides. This is a magnificent narrow slot canyon with towering cliffs over 100 feet high only separated by a few feet. B



Day 7 South Rim of the Grand Canyon and the Annular Solar Eclipse

This morning, we will drive to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. We will drive above Marble Canyon and along the Echo Cliffs to the South Rim, with a stop at Desert View for a commanding view of the canyon from the eastern boundary. From the South Rim, we will walk along the edge for a stunning view of one of the most picturesque landscapes in all of the world.

The Grand Canyon will offer the best opportunity to see the Annular Solar Eclipse. With an annular eclipse, the moon is further away from the earth so there will be a ring of sunlight or annulus around the moon during the eclipse which is quite lengthy (approximately 8 minutes).

This will be an extraordinary phenomenon! Evening dinner and celebration of the wonders of America's Canyonlands. B,L,D

Day 8 Grand Canyon to Las Vegas

After breakfast, we will drive back to Las Vegas for flights home at mid-afternoon.

Reservations

#1251

Yes! I/We want to join the **Grand Canyon Eclipse 2012 Expedition, May 14-21, 2012**, offered by **The Planetary Society & Betchart Expeditions Inc.** Please reserve ___ space(s) on the expedition. As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s): _____ Age ____ Sex ____

_____ Age ____ Sex ____

Address: _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____

Work (_____) _____

Email: _____

Citizenship: ___ USA ___ Canada Other: _____

Member of the Planetary Society: ___ Yes ___ No

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single ___ Twin Share ___ with a friend *or*

___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker ___ assign a roommate

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Please Mail To: Grand Canyon Eclipse 2012
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

Costs & Conditions

Expedition Fee: \$3,695 per person twin share (from Las Vegas). Air fare to Las Vegas additional.

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers by hotel shuttle; accommodations twin share; meals as indicated; entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air Fare from your home to Las Vegas; some meals; gratuities to expedition leaders; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, alcoholic beverages, snacks; personal insurance, or foreign airport departure taxes.

What to Expect: This expedition is for travelers who would like to explore the geological and ecological heritage of the Canyonlands, including the spectacular national parks Zion, Bryce Canyon, and the Grand Canyon and see the Annular Solar Eclipse. Traveling with a geological expert and outstanding naturalist will provide a superb experience. The group will travel from 2 to 3 hours in 15-passenger vans or motorcoach many days. Walks will be at a leisurely pace suitable for discovery. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals please.)

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: All passengers should arrive in Las Vegas by 4 pm on May 14th, and depart in mid-afternoon on May 21st.

Accommodations: Are in comfortable first class hotels/motels and a rustic lodge. Limited single accommodations are available for a supplement of \$595.

Reservations, Deposits & Payments: To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail a deposit of \$500 per person with the completed reservation form to:

Grand Canyon Eclipse 2012, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

Balance of land fee is due 60 days before departure.

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.



Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercise every care possible. 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, acts of God, terrorism, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our 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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For reservations, please contact
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Fax: (408) 252-1444
Email: info@betchartexpeditions.com
On the Web: www.betchartexpeditions.com

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Coming
December 30, 2011!
ANTARCTICA

Join our voyage aboard the *M/V Plancius* for a New Year's holiday and share in the discovery of this magnificent continent! From \$5,995 per person quad share + air.



Coming
January 26, 2012!
Arecibo
& the Lesser Antilles
See the Arecibo Radio Telescope with Planetary Society Executive Director **Bill Nye, the Science Guy!** Explore the ring of volcanic islands called the Lesser Antilles on board a 5-masted schooner!