



# AMC ADVENTURE TRAVEL

VOLUNTEER-LED EXCURSIONS WORLDWIDE

## Hiking and Total Solar Eclipse in Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains

*August 12 – 22, 2017*

*Trip #1728*



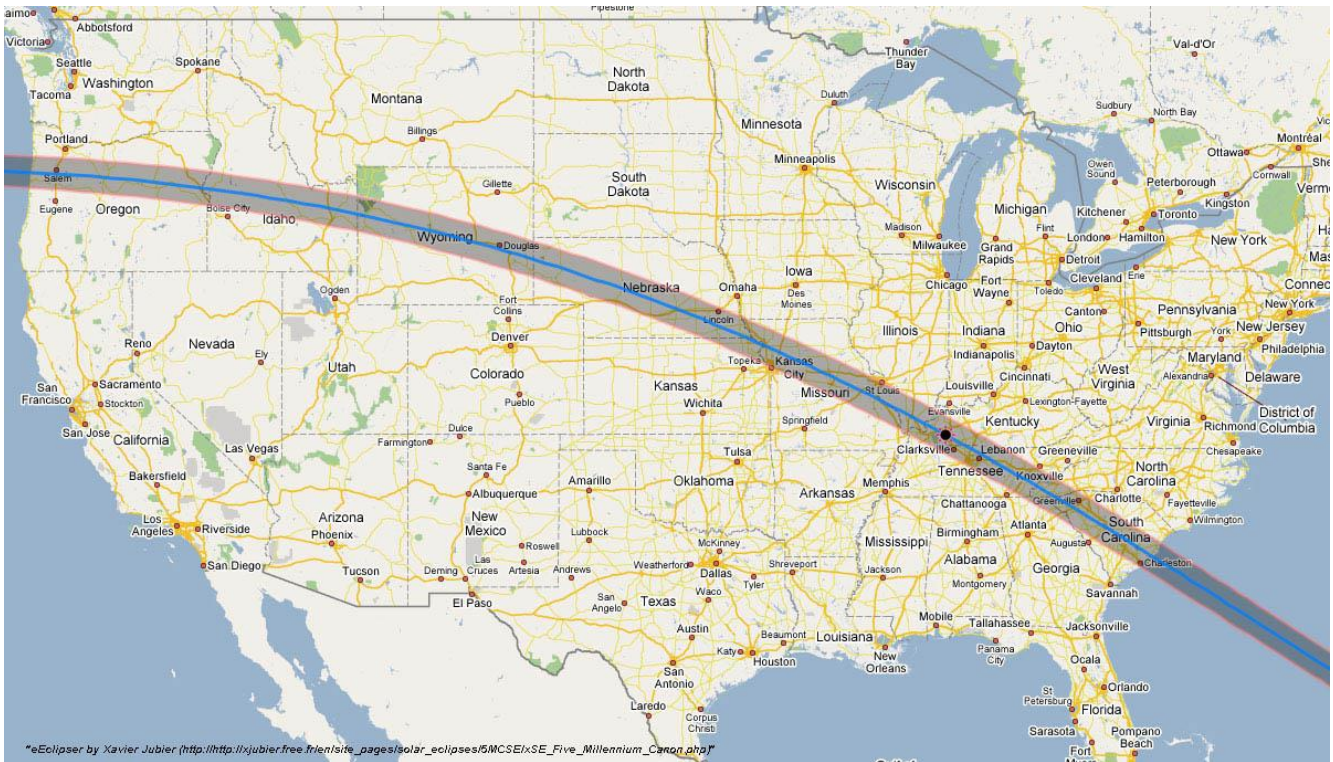
### *Introduction*

Join us for on an incredible opportunity to hike in the rugged and magnificent Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho and experience a once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse. From our base in Stanley Idaho, we will take daily hikes to different parts of the Sawtooth and White Cloud Mountains. We will feast on waterfalls, high mountain lakes, beautiful alpine meadows and jagged peaks.

On the morning of August 21, 2017, Stanley Idaho will be the perfect place to witness a total solar eclipse. As the shadow of the moon traverses the continental US, Stanley will be in the path of totality. Prior to the “main event” on August 21, Doug Arion PhD, our resident astronomer for this trip will conduct several observing programs and lectures about the eclipse and the cosmos. Telescopes and other instruments will be available.

Our trip will begin and end in Boise, Idaho. In Stanley we will stay at the lovely Stanley Riverside Motel on the banks of the Salmon River, in comfortable and spacious rooms with captivating views. On our free day, we will visit the Sunbeam Hot Springs and have a look around Sun Valley. We may even have time for an optional rafting trip on the Salmon River. We will travel in rented vehicles to our hiking venues. All lunches and dinners, ground transportation and lodging are included.

\* Note: There is another Hiking and Eclipse Trip in Idaho being offered at the same time as this trip. That trip will involve more in depth astronomy and less hiking than this trip. Contact that leader directly for more information: Cliff Chambers; wu.chambers@gmail.com. 617-680-3735.



*Path of the Eclipse*

### *Trip Difficulty*

We have six hikes planned. Every evening the leaders will describe the hike for the following day, so participants can plan accordingly. Hikes will be from 6 to 13 miles in length, with elevation gains from 320 to 3000'. Some of the terrain will be steep and rugged. We will hike at a moderate pace, which will permit time for photos. Participants should be in excellent shape and be able to hike for most of the day.

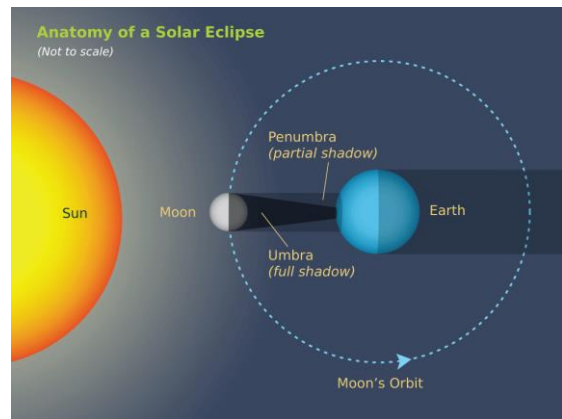
## Eclipse

Dr. Douglas Arion, Director of the Carthage Institute of Astronomy, offers astronomy programs at AMC facilities throughout the year. Doug will be our resident astronomer on this trip. Not only will he conduct the eclipse viewing, but he will prepare us with lectures and observations throughout the week prior to the eclipse.

Solar eclipses occur most years, but the narrow path of totality is rarely located in easily accessible places. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon appears to pass across the face of the Sun – and while many have observed a *partial* eclipse, a *total* eclipse is, well, a horse of a different color. Only then can the pearly white solar corona be seen, amidst near total darkness. Animals and birds react to the increasing darkness; a strange stillness envelops the environment. The 2017 eclipse is a great rarity – a total eclipse where the path of totality is right over the continental US. The last eclipse that touched the US occurred in 1979 – and that was a brief pass through the northwest. The next won't be until 2024. Seeing a total eclipse is a once (or at best a few) in a lifetime experience, and not to be missed.



*Doug Arion PhD, resident astronomer on this trip.*



## Climate

As in most mountainous terrain, the weather can be unpredictable. Expect warm to hot days and cool evenings. Be prepared for a wide range of conditions. Rain gear and layered clothing are essential.

## Tentative Itinerary

### Day 1 – Sat. 8/12:

Fly to Boise, Idaho; get our rental vehicles; welcome dinner and spend the night at a Boise motel.

### Day 2 – Sun. 8/13:

After breakfast we have a three-hour drive to Stanley. Afternoon astronomy introduction by Doug. We spend the next eight nights at the Stanley Riverside Motel.

### Day 3 – Mon. 8/14:

Hike to Bridal Veil Falls and optional extension to Hanson Lakes; 8 miles RT and 320' elevation gain to Bridal Veil Falls. (9.6 miles RT and 1582' elevation gain to Hanson Lakes). Evening observation and lecture on the human place in the cosmos.



**Day 4 – Tues. 8/15:**

Hike to Fourth of July and Washington Lakes in the White Cloud Mountains; 6 miles RT and 800' elevation gain.

**Day 5 – Wed. 8/16:**

Hike to Saddleback Lakes in the Sawtooth Mountain Wilderness. To access trailhead, we will take a boat ride across Redfish Lake. 6.8 miles RT and 2000' elevation gain. Dinner at Redfish Lodge.

**Day 6 – Thurs. 8/17:**

Free day to relax at Sunbeam Hot Springs and/or walk around the charming town of Sun Valley

**Day 7 – Fri. 8/18:**

Hike to scenic Alpine and Sawtooth Lakes in Sawtooth Wilderness. 9.6 miles RT and 1720' elev. gain.

**Day 8 – Sat. 8/19:**

Hike on Casino Creek Trail and Boundary Creek Trail. 13 miles end to end and 3000' elevation gain.

**Day 9 – Sun. 8/20:**

Hike to Alice Lake in Sawtooth Wilderness. 10.8 miles RT and 1600' elevation gain. Or optional rafting on the Salmon River. Afternoon and evening: on-site dry run for eclipse viewing and lecture.

**Day 10 – Mon. 8/21:**

ECLIPSE DAY; champagne toast, drive back to Boise; celebration dinner. Spend night at Boise motel.

**Day 11 – Tues. 8/22:**

Return rental cars and go to airport for flight home.

### *Possible Itinerary Changes*

Weather conditions, delayed planes, or automotive breakdowns can change our daily plans. Everyone is expected to “roll with the punches”, be cooperative, abide by leaders decisions, assist leaders as requested and add to the total group experience while enjoying themselves. Foremost, while leaders will try to offer options and solicit participant preferences, the decision of the leaders will always be final as they are ultimately responsible for the group’s experience: safety, enjoyment, etc.

## *Experience and Risks*

The ideal participant on this trip is a strong and active hiker who also has an interest in astronomy. People wishing to participate in this trip must have previous hiking experience at the intermediate level or higher. Although the hiking will be over moderately strenuous terrain at a moderate pace, this is not a trip for beginners or people who have not hiked during the past year. This trip is not the right time for getting into shape. You should already be in good physical condition by the time you arrive in Idaho. When you participate in this activity you should be both physically and mentally prepared and equipped with the appropriate gear. You should always be aware of the risks involved and conduct yourself accordingly. We are not responsible for your safety – you are. Prior to being accepted for this trip, you may be asked to discuss your capabilities with the leader. Please do not be offended by any questions. While not every hike has to be an edge-of-your-seat adventure, you should always be aware of the hazards that pertain to your particular hike. You must protect yourself from the sun and you must carry and drink enough water to help prevent dehydration. Salty snacks are also highly recommended to retain and utilize the water you are drinking.

## *Being a Team Player*

We will be more than just a group. We will be a team! If you enjoy being part of a group in a spectacular environment, then this excursion may be just right for you. We will have beautiful hikes, proceeding at a moderate pace. We expect that everyone will stay together. If you like to “do your own thing”, to hike by yourself at your own pace, be it fast or slow, you will not enjoy this trip. If you are not willing to be part of the group activities, or help your fellow hiker when needed, then please do not register for this excursion.

## *Trip Leadership*

**Steve Cohen, Leader:** Steve leads three season hikes for the Hiking/Backpacking Committee of the AMC Boston Chapter. Since 2012 Steve has planned and led eleven hiking/trekking-oriented Adventure Travel trips to such destinations as the Haute Route (from Chamonix, France to Zermatt, Switzerland), the Alta Via II through the Italian Dolomites, tour of the Jungfrau region (Switzerland), Patagonia, the high mountains huts of Austria, etc. He lived in Europe for four years and has a good command of both the French and German language. Steve is currently chair of Adventure Travel.



**Ron Janowitz, Co-Leader:** Ron has been a hike leader for the NH Chapter of AMC for over ten years. He has climbed many of the highest peaks in the U.S., including Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Hood and Mt. Whitney. He has trekked in Bolivia, and completed the 105 mile Tour du Mont Blanc. He has led AMC trips to several National Parks in Utah, Olympic National Park, Sedona, the Cascade Mountains, Death Valley, Slovakia, Patagonia, Peru, Scotland and Ireland. Ron has Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR certification. He looks forward to sharing this adventure in beautiful Idaho and witnessing the total solar eclipse with the participants on this trip.



## *Trip Cost*

The land cost of this trip is \$3,200, which includes all lodging, all lunches and dinners, ground transportation and telescopes. Trip cost does not include airfare, estimated to be \$600. The price does not include breakfasts, alcohol and fees for any optional activities (rafting, hot springs, etc.) In accordance with AMC policy, you are subsidizing the leaders' costs. The trip fee also includes an AMC overhead charge to cover the administrative expenses of offering the Adventure Travel program. Any unspent funds will be refunded to all participants. In the unlikely event the actual costs exceed the advertised price, participants may have to contribute an additional amount.

## *Accommodations/Meals/Transportation*

We will be staying in clean and comfortable motels – double occupancy. Everyone will buy breakfast items to prepare in their own rooms. We will buy provisions for lunch and everyone will make lunches to take on our daily hikes. We will eat out at local restaurants every evening. All land transportation will be provided. We will rent cars and vans and drive to the various locations.

## *Application Process*

If you decide that you would like to sign up for this trip, you can download the forms you need here: [Application Documents](#). A reservation deposit of \$1000 per person is due with your application. Please make your check payable to the Appalachian Mountain Club and mail with the completed forms to Steve at the address shown on the application. After we receive your application, we may talk to you about your hiking experience to ascertain your ability to participate successfully in this trip. We want to be sure that we can adequately provide for your needs in our backcountry locations.

## *Deposit and Payment*

Upon acceptance on the trip, we will notify you by email. At that point we will deposit your check into the trip account and use the money to cover trip expenses incurred on your behalf. The balance of \$2200 per person is due on April 1, 2017.

## *Cancellations*

Cancellations received before the trip is confirmed to run will receive a full refund. Cancellations after that date will lose a minimum of \$200 of their deposit. Any additional refunds will only be made if it does not raise the cost of the trip to the other participants or leaders. If your spot is filled from a waiting list, then you may be entitled to a full refund, less the cancellation fee. There is a possibility that participants will not receive any refund. Participants are encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the trip is cancelled by AMC, you will receive a full refund for all payments.

## *Insurance*

The basic policy included with your trip fee is through TripMate™ and includes \$200,000 for emergency medical evacuation. It also includes \$5,000 for accident medical expenses. Participants should have their own medical insurance. If you are accepted on this trip, we will provide information about purchasing optional insurance that could cover cancellation, lost baggage, etc.

## *Airlines and Travel*

The leaders can assist you in making airline reservations. Plan to arrive in Boise (BOI) by 4 PM on Saturday, August 12, 2017. The trip ends, and you may depart from Boise on Tuesday morning, August 22. Of course, you may arrive earlier and depart later if you want to extend your trip.

## *Questions*

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either of us to discuss them.

Steve Cohen: scohen1234@gmail.com or (617) 997-6861

Ron Janowitz: ron@ronjanowitz.com or (603) 625-9848

## *Required Gear*

Here is a list of suggestions for what to bring to have a good time on the trip. Most of the items are things you would bring for a day hike in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Day pack

Personal first aid

Rain gear (both jacket and pants)

2 one liter water bottles and/or hydration bladder

Light gloves

Light or midweight fleece jacket

\*\*\*Note: it is often chilly/cold for night time observing. Bring warmer clothes for night use – gloves, warm hat, warm base layers.

Comfortable hiking boots and socks

Long pants - synthetic

Hiking shorts (zip off pants highly recommended)

Synthetic T-shirts

Long sleeve synthetic shirt

Sunglasses

Sun hat with wide brim

Sun protection lotion

Lip protection balm

Leisure clothes for travel and restaurants (moderate amount)

Personal toiletries

Toilet paper

Headlamps with extra batteries

Note: Flashlight or headlamp with red bulb is preferred for astronomy night time use.

### *Optional recommendations:*

Bathing suit (for hot springs)

Camera

Ear plugs

Short gaiters to keep rocks/dust out of boots

Small knife (be sure to pack in check in luggage, not carry on)

Compass

Zip lock bags

We recommend hiking with poles, but if you don't like them, that's fine.

**Note: The luggage carrying capacity of our vehicles is not huge. Please – one moderate size bag per person.**