

Prof. Richard D. Little invites you to join our **2019 "Fantastic Landscapes Tour"** to some of the world's greatest natural parks and attractions located in the desert Southwest area

LAS VEGAS -- DEATH VALLEY -- and the Lunar Eclipse

FEATURING: Absolutely sublime scenery and amazing geologic history with explorations in isolated desert canyons and the shores of playa lakes -- both dry and wet, plus unusual volcanic explosion craters, dunes by moonlight and with an eclipse, too.



Yes...great scenery, spectacular geology, and magical romantic moments, too! You will have time to book a Las Vegas show (or two), enjoy great food at romantic restaurants, walk in the desert's winter warmth, swim in a warm-spring-fed pool, and have free time for activities you choose.

Includes: Hoover Dam & Colorado River trip, Red Rock Canyon, Valley of Fire, the best of Las Vegas and 4 nights at Furnace Creek Ranch Resort in Death Valley National Park

January 13 – 22, 2019 (or 23rd to avoid "red eye" flight) <> only **\$ 2600** (estimated cost) per person/double occupancy + air fare

LAS VEGAS IS ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING LANDSCAPE AREAS ON EARTH. *There are world-class "Fantastic Landscapes" just minutes from the famous Las Vegas Strip's casinos! Really! Places like the amazingly colorful Jurassic dune-sandstone cliffs of Red Rock Canyon, a few miles west of town and Valley of Fire State Park, one-hour north, near the shore of Lake Mead.*



From Las Vegas as a base, we will explore the surrounding spectacular natural landscapes as well as Hoover Dam and Lake Mead. Las Vegas itself is an amazing sight! In this unique oasis in the desert there are the casinos with various gambling options [suggestion: stay away from these!] and many artistic and spectacular show-extravaganzas, of course, but there also are some other very interesting attractions: zoos, aquaria, and museums of natural history and art. Las Vegas is indescribable – it's fun, it's unique; you really have to see this to

believe it!

After five nights in Las Vegas, we will travel through the scenic Basin and Range - Mojave Desert landscape to Death Valley National Park. Death Valley's landscape is similar to the Connecticut Valley during the Mesozoic Era -- a time when the eastern side of our continent was splitting from Pangea as the Atlantic Ocean began. These "rift" valleys are fault bounded, and we will see lots of faults in our travels. **Yes, you will find faults with this tour** (as well as alluvial fans, dunes, desert pavement, unusual salt landforms, diverse slot canyons, and many more geologic thrills). We lodge for 4 nights at Furnace Creek Ranch, IN the National Park, a beautiful oasis with a warm-spring-fed swimming pool and even the world's lowest golf course at your doorstep (everyone gets a low score here). Spectacular "slot" canyons are eroded into the mountainous sides of Death Valley and other ranges in the region. Being in the desert, they are dry for most of the year and make for some



Amazing Titus Canyon rocks!

outstanding nature walks or longer hikes, if you wish. We will walk to the top of desert sand dunes (by the light of the moon!), and explore desert lakes, both dry and wet. On Jan. 21st there is a total lunar eclipse! You will be there to see this event in one of the best, clear and scenic landscapes for viewing! Finally, we will depart for our return to Las Vegas, about 3 hours away.

Plan your return plane flight for the evening or stay over in Las Vegas for a next day flight, Jan. 23rd. The extra night will add about \$50 to your tour price.

-----Brief Itinerary ----- DAY 1 -- Sunday, Jan. 13: arrive Las Vegas for 4 nights with rooms at a location central to the famous Las Vegas “Strip” DAY 2 Free Day to explore exciting Las Vegas. (It’s way more fun than you might think!) DAY 3 Valley of Fire State Park. Short amazing hikes to petroglyphs and slot canyons, picnic lunch. DAY 4 Red Rock Canyon tour and short hikes with picnic lunch. Spring Mt Ranch historic site. DAY 5 Hoover Dam Visitors Center and Lake Mead with a one-hour river trip below the dam. DAY 6 on to Death Valley with some amazing scenic stops along the way. DAY 7 Mosaic Canyon & Dunes walk DAY 8 Bad Water, Golden Canyon, Zabriskie Point. DAY 9 Titus Canyon, Scotty’s Castle, Ubehebe Craters. Moon Eclipse Viewing DAY 10 Morning activities and then return to Las Vegas. Evening flight home or stay over.

For more information about our tours, plus books and videos on Western New England, visit our web site at www.earthview.rocks or by email: rdlittle2000@aol.com or phone: (413) 527-8536

FAQ’s -- (Frequently Asked Questions) -- and participant comments

Who goes on these “Fantastic Landscapes” Tours? While our average age of participants is probably mid 50’s, we have had a variety of folks, from families to eighty-something. **How strenuous is the “hiking”?** If you like “nature walks” you’ll love our outings. We have a great variety of options. Some people plan more strenuous activities than others, and our daily activities are geared to *meet everyone’s goals, as much as possible*. **Where do we stay?** We book high quality, medium to small lodgings (usually), in scenic, convenient settings. **Who does the driving?** We use rental mini vans and full-size cars with volunteer drivers. We buy the maximum extra liability insurance and we have 2-way radios for communication. **I don’t know any geology! Should I go on this tour?** Yes! If you have an interest in nature, come and learn how to read the “record in the rocks the history in a grain of sand”. **Travel with a geologist** to unlock the secrets of the rocks and landscapes. Your tour leader has decades of experience. Go with our small group and **get away from the crowd**, but still have a helpful group of friends to share with. You will have flexibility to stop for that great view, smell the flowers, pick up an incredible rock, have a romantic dinner...

Don’t wait to save your place... seating is definitely limited!

Who are your tour leaders? Richard Little is professor emeritus of geology at Greenfield Community College, author of 2 books and 2 videos on Connecticut Valley geology, and has been elected to the Mass. Science Educator Hall of Fame. He has been leading “Fantastic Landscapes” tours since 1981. His spouse, Suzanne, loves flowers and has degrees in Biology, Education, and Social Work.

Participants’ comments? *“The trip was superb...we have been singing you praises across the land....” “It certainly was a fantastic trip... the moonlight walk in the dunes was a sublime experience. We will certainly tell our friends about the great time we had, and thank you again for being such wonderful and caring leaders!”*

Want to talk with a past participant? We can refer you.

THE COST: only \$2600 (estimated) *Per person / double occupancy + air*

Includes: First Class Lodging, Transportation, Experienced Tour Leader, Guide Book, Pre and Post Trip Meetings, Video Record of Trip. The cost does *not* include: air fare, food, gas, and minimal costs of parking and entrance fees to parks, etc. Gas, etc., costs will be divided amongst the group members.

TO ENROLL Send \$100 per person deposit** (check to “Earth View LLC), 6 Grand View Ln, Easthampton, MA 01027-1075) to hold your space.

For questions or more information, contact Prof. Little by phone or email, see above.

****Fully refundable, even after the tour if you are not satisfied! FINAL PAYMENT DUE November 1, 2018 Cancellation fees: after Nov. 1, 2018 = \$100 per person.**