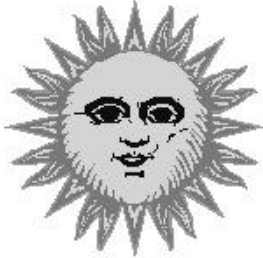


# Summer Solstice Tour

## to Mono Lake and Yosemite

June 22–June 25, 2001

by Shelly Backlar



Last year's luxury bus tour from San Francisco to Mono Lake was so much fun that we've decided to do it again! This time the adventure begins in Los Angeles, following the Sierra Nevada mountains along Highway 395 to Mono Lake on the summer solstice. Our mutual love for Mono Lake brings us together on this four-day, three-night fundraising tour. All accommodations, lunches, dinners, wine, and outdoor activities are included for just \$900 per person\*.

Travel in comfort and style on a spacious California Parlor Car Tours motor coach with reclining seats, large tinted windows, air conditioning, and a restroom. There will be stops along the way at scenic locations to take in the beautiful surroundings, stretch your legs, enjoy refreshments, and get acquainted with one another.

Friday night's stay is at Murphey's Motel in Lee Vining, overlooking Mono

Lake, with a 14-foot spa. On Saturday everyone will choose both a morning and an afternoon activity in the Mono Lake area such as canoeing, birding, hiking, strolling at South Tufa or exploring the ghost town of Bodie.

Sunday we head to Yosemite National Park with stops at Tenaya Lake, El Capitan, and Bridal Veil Falls, with time to relax or hike after brunch at the Ahwahnee Hotel.

Monday's highlight is a guided tour of the San Luis Wildlife Refuge Complex to see Tule elk, migrating shorebirds, hummingbirds, and songbirds.

Fine wine and gourmet meals abound on this special trip. Dine at the Still Life Café in Olancha, and the Mono Inn at Mono Lake. Have a catered lunch at Mono County Park, dinner at the Double Eagle Resort and Spa in June Lake, brunch at the Ahwanhee in Yosemite, and lunch at España Restaurant in Los Banos.

The final evening will be spent at a charming 100-year old converted ranch—the historic Sierra Sky Ranch in Oakhurst. Enjoy 14 acres of natural beauty—fishing in Lewis Creek, hiking to

Corlieu Falls, swimming, or relaxing on the sun deck before dinner on Sunday. We have reserved all the rooms at this rustic lodge so our last night together will be a special one.

All proceeds from the Summer Solstice Tour go to help with the protection and restoration of Mono Lake and the continuing education programs in and about the Mono Basin.

Space is limited so sign up for the Summer Solstice Tour today! For more information contact Shelly Backlar ([shelly@monolake.org](mailto:shelly@monolake.org)) at (818) 716-8488, or visit the Committee's website [www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org) and download the flyer. 🦋

*Shelly Backlar is the Committee's Development Director. She made her most recent Mono Basin appearance in a gown and gloves!*

*\*The fair market value of the Summer Solstice Tour is expected to be \$650. The balance of your payment may be tax-deductible.*

## Experienced volunteers needed for the April 21 shorebird count

In April you can expect to find American Avocets, Eared Grebes, White-faced Ibises, Western and Least Sandpipers, ducks and geese, with the potential to see Snowy Plovers, Dunlins, Dowitchers, and much more! This is a chance to explore remote parts of Mono Lake and count shorebirds,

ducks, and other birds. Help us monitor birds and establish a growing database as changes to lakeshore habitat occur.

The count takes from a half to a full day of hiking, and weather can be variable. You'll need plenty of water and food for a full day in the field. There's a high probability of hiking

through some mud or soggy areas. Binoculars and a working knowledge of common shorebirds are essential. A spotting scope and 4WD vehicle would be useful, but are not necessary.

For more information contact Bartshe ([bartshe@monolake.org](mailto:bartshe@monolake.org)) at (760) 647-6595.