

Eastern Sierra Volcanism



Panum Crater on a stormy day in July

Sandra Noll

September 17–18, 2022 • Claire Landowski

\$195 per person / \$180 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 10 participants

The Eastern Sierra is a fascinating and exciting place to learn about volcanoes and the volcanic history of the region. From the Long Valley Caldera and the Glass Mountain Range to Mammoth Mountain, Mono-Inyo Craters, and into the Mono Basin, we will explore some of the world-class volcanic features in Mono Lake's backyard. This seminar will involve moderate hiking at elevations from 6,500-11,000 feet above sea level. We will likely walk 2–3 miles over the course of the day, some of which is off-trail and will be short and steep.

Claire Landowski may be the Mono Lake Committee's Office Director in the day-to-day, but she is an avid geologist at heart. Claire majored in geosciences at the University of Arizona, surveyed glaciers in Greenland for her master's degree from the University of Wyoming, and worked as a geologic map editor for the US Geological Survey for seven years before joining the Committee. On daily dog walks, Claire can be found picking up rocks and musing about their origins or exclaiming about their beauty.

ITINERARY

Saturday, September 17 at 8:00am: Meet at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining. After brief introductions, we will spend the day traveling to several locations to observe different volcanic features in the southern Mono Basin and Long Valley. There will be some short walks and at least two short, but steep, hikes. This day will end around 5:00pm.

Sunday, September 18 at 7:30am: Meet at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining, ready for a hike to a volcanic feature in the northern Mono Basin. We will hike about 2 miles round trip with little shade and a few steep sections. The seminar will officially end around 12:30pm, but there will be an optional afternoon trip to Mammoth from approximately 1:30 to 4:30pm for two additional stops.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: DIFFICULT

This seminar's activity level: *difficult*. We will be walking up to three miles a day, some of which will be over uneven terrain, off trail, and will include stepping up and over obstacles. This type of walking requires good balance, some agility, and stamina. Be prepared for short, steep sections of trail with little shade.

WEATHER & ALTITUDE

Temperatures in summer will be hot during the day and drop to chilly at night, with possible windy conditions and afternoon thunderstorms. Average temperatures in September in Lee Vining are 76°F (max) and 47°F (min).

This seminar will take place at elevations ranging from about 6,000 to 8,000 feet above sea level (and up to 11,000 feet if you join the optional Sunday afternoon portion). It is a good idea to acclimate at the elevation of Lee Vining for at least 24 hours prior to the start of the seminar. Those with a history of heart, ear, or respiratory problems should consult their doctors before attending. Anyone restricted to lower elevations should not enroll. *Note: If you have residual respiratory effects from having Covid-19, activities at altitude may be particularly difficult for you.

Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is intense at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

TO BRING

- face mask (N95 or KN95 recommended)
- hand lens
- notebook and pen/pencil
- camera (optional)
- binoculars (optional)
- hiking poles (optional)
- appropriate field clothing: hat, sunglasses, warm layers, rain gear
- day pack including *plenty of water*, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.
- packed lunch and snacks

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- Glazner, Allen, and Greg Stock, *Geology Underfoot in Yosemite National Park*, Mountain Press, 2010.
- Tierney, Timothy, *Geology of the Mono Basin*, Mono Lake Committee Field Guide Series, Kutsavi Press, 1995.

- Hill, Mary, *Geology of the Sierra Nevada, Revised Edition*, California Natural History Guides, University of California Press, 2006.
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COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS FOR 2022

All participants and instructors must be fully vaccinated and boosted. Proof of vaccination will be required after you register for a seminar.

Please minimize your exposure to Covid in the time leading up to your seminar. We recommend obtaining a negative PCR test result within 72 hours prior to your seminar starting.* If your PCR test comes back positive for Covid, you must cancel your registration and stay home. If you begin to feel sick in the days leading up to your seminar, you must cancel your registration and stay home. You will receive a full refund in either case.

*Depending on the regional Covid situation we may need to *require* a negative PCR test result within 72 hours prior to your seminar starting.

During the seminars masks will be required indoors and in carpools/Mono Lake Committee van in accordance with Mono County requirements (N95 or KN95 masks offer the best protection). If Mono County has lifted the mask requirement, masks will not be required indoors and in vehicles during the seminars. (You may wear a mask at any time if you wish to.)

If you begin to feel ill with Covid symptoms at any time during the seminar, you must immediately notify the instructor or staff member accompanying the group and leave the seminar.

Please keep in mind that conditions may change at any time and we may have to change our procedures in order to provide the opportunity for everyone involved with the Field Seminars to safely participate. Depending on the Covid situation in the weeks leading up to your seminar, we may have to plan to hold the seminar completely outdoors. Mask requirements may change. There's a chance we may have to cancel seminars altogether. We will communicate with you about any of these changes, and you can always get in touch with us if you have questions or need more clarification about specific circumstances, by emailing fieldseminars@monolake.org or by calling (760) 647-6595.



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

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