

Eastern Sierra Volcanism



Panum Crater on a stormy day in July

Sandra Noll

September 8–10, 2023 • Claire Landowski

\$250 per person / \$235 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 is an avid geologist living in the Eastern Sierra. 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. On daily dog walks, Claire can be found picking up rocks and musing about their origins or exclaiming about their beauty.

ITINERARY

Friday, September 8 at 7:00pm: Meet in the gallery at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining (51365 Highway 395). After introductions, we will view a presentation that will review basic geologic concepts and provide some background on the Eastern Sierra sites that we will visit in the following days.

Saturday, September 9 at 8:00am: Meet at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore. We will spend the day traveling to several locations south of the Mono Basin to observe different volcanic features in the Long Valley region. This may include a ride up the Mammoth Mountain Gondola if the weather cooperates. The day will end around 5:00pm.

Sunday, September 10 at 7:30am: Meet at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore, ready to visit several Mono Basin hotspots including 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 day will end around 4:30pm.

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 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.

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

- 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
- Ikon pass (if you have one already)

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.



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • monolake.org/seminars