Geology of the Mono Basin: Land of Fire & Ice

The Mono Basin as it might have looked circa 120,000 years ago. Illustration by Eric Knight.

August 14–16, 2020 ● Greg Stock

$182 per person / $167 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 15 participants

From volcanic craters to glacial moraines, earthquake faults to tufa towers, the Mono Basin displays some of the most unique, spectacular, and accessible geology anywhere in the world. This seminar, consisting mostly of field visits to the premier sites, will present in understandable fashion the geologic stories of the Mono Basin. The seminar will visit and explain such scenic wonders as Mono Lake, the Mono Craters, Black Point, Lee Vining Canyon, and Tioga Pass. If you’ve ever wanted to know more about the geologic forces that formed the diverse landscapes of the Mono Basin, this trip is for you.

Greg Stock is the first-ever Yosemite National Park geologist. He has a BS in geology from Humboldt State University and a PhD in earth sciences from UC Santa Cruz. A near-lifelong resident of the Sierra Nevada, Greg has studied and interpreted the geology of the Sierra Nevada for more than 20 years. He has authored or co-authored over 100 papers and abstracts on Sierra Nevada geology, and is co-author of the book Geology Underfoot in Yosemite National Park. Greg is excited to share his knowledge of, and passion for, the outstanding geology of the Mono Basin!
ITINERARY (The itinerary for this seminar will be flexible in order to respond to local conditions and class participant interest.)

Friday, August 14, 7:00pm: Meet in the gallery at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore. After introductions, we will view a slideshow presentation that will review basic geologic concepts and provide some background on the Mono Basin sites that we will visit in the following days.

Saturday, August 15, 8:00am: We will meet at the Mono Lake Committee and carpool to stops in Tioga Pass, Bennetville, Ellery Lake, and Lee Vining Canyon. We will finish the day about 5:00pm.

Sunday, August 16, 8:00am: We will meet at the Mono Lake Committee and carpool to stops at Panum Crater, South Tufa, the Aeolian Buttes, Old Marina, Black Point, and possibly others, finishing the day by about 4:00pm.

PHYSICAL EXERTION & DEHYDRATION
Although this seminar will not require strenuous hiking, nearly every stop will involve at least some walking, and the longest hike may be in excess of 2 miles (round trip). Participants should be in reasonably good physical shape. Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes and in the dry air of the Mono Basin. Also, the sun is capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. Conversely, rain is always a possibility, especially at the higher altitudes, so also come prepared with raingear.

TO BRING
__ hand lens
__ notebook and pen/pencil
__ camera
__ binoculars (optional)
__ trekking poles (optional)
__ appropriate field clothing: hat, sunglasses, warm layers, raingear
__ day pack including plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.
__ packed lunch for each day

RECOMMENDED BOOKS