As the dark new moon moves across the Sun’s face, the sky grows darker, the air grows cooler and excitement builds. Suddenly the blue sky vanishes, stars appear, and the busy world stops in awe. Behind the Moon’s black disk, red prominences flow outward from the Sun’s hidden photosphere.

In an instant, a pearly corona with streamers of glowing gas appears, surrounding the Sun’s darkened disk. In a moment your world is magically transformed, because this single event is both real and unbelievable. Then the shadow moves on, leaving you in sunlight with images and memories to cherish.

A solar eclipse is an experience of a lifetime, best experienced with the entertaining Dr. Carolyn Sumners. Her entertaining commentary make her enthusiasm of astronomy contagious. She has led groups on HMNS eclipse trips all over the world—most recently to Australia, China and Libya.

### Eclipse Travelers get Priority Registration for Wyoming Dinosaur Dig!

**Price Includes**
- Hotel for 3 nights / 4 days
- All meals
- Private viewing area for Eclipse
- Astronomy field guides
- Eclipse activities, viewing practice sessions, photography workshops

**Price Does Not Include**
- Transportation to/from Casper
- Adult beverages

**Price per person** (double occupancy):
- Members $2,500, Nonmembers $5,000
  - Single supplement: $1,750
  - Additional 3rd person in room: $1,250
  - Additional 4th person in room: $1,250
  - Upgrade to King Suite: $725

**Dinosaur Excavation** extension will be available, and offered 1st to Eclipse travelers. Space is very limited.

**Solar eclipses are rare, with the Moon’s shadow creating a narrow path across a small part of the Earth. The last total solar eclipse in the continental US happened in 1979. We must wait until 2024 for the next one. Don’t miss the eclipse of 2017!**

**After researching factors from proximity to the center line and cloud cover to accessibility and accommodations, we have selected Casper, Wyoming as the Museum’s eclipse destination.**

**Casper gives the best chance of having the clearest sky on the eclipse line for optimal eclipse viewing. Hotels along the eclipse path are selling out now. To ensure a prime viewing site in Casper, we booked an entire hotel outside the congested city center.**

**Although Casper will be filled with eclipse travelers from around the world, our package—private viewing area, hotel with all meals included, and experienced astronomy team—guarantees that your eclipse experience will be both exciting and hassle-free.**

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Dr. Carolyn Sumners  
HMNS VP of Astronomy and Physical Sciences
Itinerary

Pre-Trip

Pre-trip programs will be scheduled for the fall of 2016 and the summer of 2017.

The 2016 program will focus on the spectacular night sky in August and what equipment is best for capturing the eclipse and for viewing the night sky. Photography options exist from cell phones to cameras with telescopes, wide angle views of the sky, telephoto videos. You will have experts to help you make the best decision and to provide equipment to share. You will receive filters for your cameras and glasses for you to wear during the eclipse’s partial phases.

In our 2017 meetings, we will review all equipment in time for you to pick up batteries and other items, which will be in very short supply in Casper. We will also practice in the Burke Baker Planetarium with the day and night skies over Casper.

Preparation and practice are keys to the best eclipse experience. The two minutes and 26 seconds of totality will go fast so your photography should be effortless and not hamper your enjoyment of the eclipse.

Saturday, August 19

Welcome Dinner & Orientation

After your afternoon arrival in Casper, meet the group at the Hilton Garden Inn. An eclipse Kick-Off Dinner will be held in the hotel ballroom.

Dr. Carolyn Sumners will review all of the activities for the next two days including weather reports and the latest images of activity on the sun. We’ll review local walking attractions. Dr. Sumners will explain compass directions for the eclipse event, as well as lead evening stargazing. The daytime temperature will be in the mid 80’s with evening lows in the 50’s.

Evening Stargazing

Telescopes for solar photography can also show the wonders of the summer sky with the Milky Way crossing overhead. Scorpius and Sagittarius lie close to the horizon with the ringed planet Saturn nearby. You can discover star clusters, double stars, nebulas and even other galaxies in the dark Wyoming skies. Experience moving a telescope to adjust for the Earth’s rotation and finding north can be valuable when using a telescope for the Earth’s rotation during the solar eclipse.
Sunday, August 20
Eclipse Simulation
After breakfast we will equip binoculars and cameras for viewing the sun’s partial phases and attaching solar filters to telescopes. Then at 11:43 we will practice for totality, selecting our location and observing the Sun with cameras and telescopes. This is the time for anything to fail and for rearranging folks for the best views the following morning. Because we have the whole hotel, we can make all the arrangements we need for the best viewing. Lunch will be served in the hotel ballroom.

Eclipse Simulation
On Sunday afternoon, we will offer additional sessions of eclipse viewing practice and exciting planetarium programs in our portable dome theater. This is also a great time for exploring Casper and enjoying all the hype surrounding the eclipse. The town will be full of eclipse watchers and souvenirs of all types.

Eclipse Eve Dinner
Dinner will include the latest updates on weather, solar activity and locations for evening viewing as well as set up for the eclipse event. By dinner everyone should have eclipse glasses and filters for cameras and should have practiced observing the sun at the time of totality as well as trying photography of the uneclipsed sun. There will also be time for questions and answers affecting the whole group.

Sunday Night Stargazing
This night we will attempt some photography through telescopes and capturing sky trails as well as our normal night sky viewing. This will be a good time to get comfortable tracking the movement in the sky in preparation for our eclipse viewing.

Monday, August 21
Observing from our hotel means you can return to your room for supplies, be close to our hospitality room for snacks and last minute needs for filters or batteries, and have the comfort of restroom facilities. Everyone has freedom to observe the entire eclipse experience at their leisure.

Total Solar Eclipse 2017
The HMNS Astronomy Crew will provide commentary on the phases of the Eclipse and instruction on using your eclipse-viewing glasses and photography equipment.

The eclipse experience will take the whole morning beginning with first contact, when the Moon’s disk first appears in front of the Sun at 10:22:21.6 AM. We must wait until 11:42:45.3 AM for the beginning of totality which lasts just 2 minutes and 26 seconds, ending at 11:45:11.5 AM. The brilliant planet Venus above the eclipsed sun and the bright star Regulus shining through the Sun’s corona will make totality even more exciting. We can then relax as the Moon completes its trip across the Sun’s disk at 1:09:33.1 PM.
Eclipse Afternoon
A hearty lunch will be held in the hotel ballroom. Then it’s an afternoon of collecting our stills, editing our videos and relaxing in our own hotel.

Eclipse Celebration Dinner
This evening at dinner we will watch the official trip video. Everyone will receive the link to download the video and photographs taken by HMNS Astronomy crew, plus any images that fellow travelers want to share.

Tuesday, August 22
Happy Trails Breakfast
After breakfast, our group will part ways—some continuing on the HMNS Dinosaur Excavation trip, others to explore a National Park, and some to stay and spend additional time in Casper for Western-heritage adventures and to enjoy the numerous hiking, biking and fishing opportunities unique to Wyoming.

Field Guides

Dr. Carolyn Sumners, Astronomer
Dr. Carolyn Sumners is the Vice President for Astronomy and the Physical Sciences at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, an adjunct professor at Rice University and at the University of Houston and a museum educator for the Houston Independent School District. She directs the Museum’s Burke Baker Planetarium, Expedition Center, and George Observatory. She trained the Space Shuttle Astronauts, sent Toys into Space, coauthored a best-selling national elementary textbook series, and designs permanent exhibit halls. She directed the development of the first Challenger Learning Center in 1988 and invented the portable digital video theater in 2003. She has just directed the renovation of the Burke Baker Planetarium including installation of the world’s first True 8K planetarium.

David Temple, Paleontologist
As associate curator of paleontology, David Temple developed the current Paleontology Field Program for HMNS. He has lead numerous paleontology trips for HMNS to Texas Permian and Eocene localities, Wyoming and Europe. He will be with us in Casper, between two dinosaur excavation trips, which will be offered first to those registered for this Eclipse Trip.

HMNS Astronomy Crew
Adam Barnes, Tony Butterfield, James Wooten, Gary Young

Dinosaur Excavation with Peter Larson

Priority Registration for Eclipse Travelers
An optional extension to this Eclipse trip is being planned with paleontologist Peter Larson at his current excavation site—which is just 2 hours from Casper. Pete’s legendary find is Sue, the famous T. rex at Chicago’s Field Museum. Pete is president of the Black Hills Institute and prepared several of the dinosaurs and other skeletons in HMNS’ Morian Hall of Paleontology.

Registration for this paleo trip will be offered first to participants registered for this Eclipse trip. Space is very limited for this field experience and will not be able to accommodate all those on the Eclipse trip. Individuals cannot sign-up for both sessions. Details will be available summer of 2016.
Hilton Garden Inn Casper

1150 N. Poplar Street, Casper, Wyoming, 82601, USA
(307) 266-1300 | Website

Directions: From I-25 take exit 188B (Poplar St). Head north on Poplar St. for ½ mile.

Getting to Casper
19.5 hour drive from Houston, non-stop
15 minutes from Casper–Natrona County International Airport
4 hour drive from Denver

Additional Days in Casper
Casper is a charming town that will be inundated with Eclipse travelers from around the globe during the days we are there with the group. A reduced rate at Hilton Garden Inn is available for our group for the two nights before August 18 and the two nights after August 21. The reduced rate is $363 plus tax. You may consider this if you would like a day or two to relax from traveling to Wyoming or to explore scenic and historic Casper:

- World-class fly fishing and traditional spin casting
- Rock climbing the towering falls of Fremont Canyon, 40 to 400-foot climbs available
- Scenic wildlife drives: deer, antelope, buffalo and flocks of duck and geese
- Hiking and biking in Freemont County along the Platte River, Garden Creek Falls, Casper Mountain, Muddy Mountain, Coal Mountain, Pathfinder Dam, Fremont Canyon
- Historical sites: Fort Casper, Historic Bishop Home, Salt Creek Oilfield Museum, Mormon Hand cart Visitor Center, and the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, where you can experience pioneer life of early emigrants traveling on the six trails that meet in Casper: Oregon, California, Mormon, Bozeman, Bridger, and Pony Express
- Retrace pioneer trails via covered wagon or horseback, 2-hours to 5-day trips available
- Nicolaysen Art Museum featuring contemporary artists in the Rocky Mountain Region
- Local natural science and history museums: Tate Geological Museum, The Science Zone, Werner Wildlife Museum, and Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum
- ASTROCON 2017 Convention, August 16-19, 2017
On the Way
Take advantage of your time in the great Northwest to explore these natural wonders on your way to or from the Eclipse. The mileage below is direction and distance from Casper, Wyoming.

- The granite monolith Independence Rock is one of the great symbols of the frontier spirit. (56 miles SW)
- 19th century trading post and diplomatic site, Fort Laramie witnessed the sweeping saga of America’s western expansion. (126 miles SE)
- With over 1 million acres of national forest, the Cloud Peak Wilderness area, historic guard stations and fire lookouts, developed campgrounds, 1,200 miles of trails, and spectacular scenery, the Bighorn National Forest has something for everyone. (148 miles N)
- The significant Miocene Epoch mammal site is located at the Agate Fossil Beds. (159 miles E)
- Towering 800 feet above the North Platte River, Scotts Bluff is a landmark rich with geological, paleontological and human history. (179 miles SE)
- Devils Tower stands more than 1,250 feet out of the rolling prairie surrounding the Black Hills. (187 miles NE)
- Hidden beneath the prairie sits Wind Cave, a long and complex cave system featuring boxwork, a unique formation rarely found elsewhere. (205 miles NE)
- The majestic Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills of South Dakota. (220 miles NE)
- The Grand Teton mountain range is rich with extraordinary wildlife, pristine lakes and alpine terrain. (249 miles NW)
- Known as America's aquarium in stone, Fossil Butte, is notably fossiliferous. Fishes, insects, plants, reptiles, birds and mammals fossils from this local are exceptional for their abundance, variety and preservation. (301 miles SW)
- The rugged landscape of the Badlands have yielded multitude of fossils, including saber-toothed cats and three-toed horses. (315 miles NE)
- Established in 1872 as America’s first national park, Yellowstone contains the world's greatest concentration of geysers. (407 miles NW)
Participant Requirements and Responsibilities

- Participants of all abilities can enjoy this trip.
- No more than 4 participants are allowed in a double queen room. No more than 2 adults and 1 child 6 years or younger are allowed in a king room.
- Room preference of double queen or one king cannot be guaranteed for parties of 1 or 2.
- Each child under 12 must be accompanied by one adult guardian. Guardians are responsible for the supervision and safety of their children. All minors must be registered and rooming with an adult.
- Participants should notify HMNS staff of any medical issues in case of emergency.
- No partial refunds will be made for missed activities.
- Participants are responsible for making and paying for their own travel arrangements to and from Casper, Wyoming. This leaves flexibility for those wanting additional days under the big skies of the Northwest, to use frequent flyer miles for their airfare, or to drive and enjoy the sites along the way. We will give you the contact information for the Museum’s travel agent if you would like assistance booking your flights.
- Upon check-in at hotel, a representative for each room must register a credit card for incidental charges incurred by those staying in the room which are not included in the trip package.
- Participants will meet in Casper, Wyoming. Our first group activity begins at 6 p.m. on August 19 at Hilton Garden Inn, Casper, Wyoming.
- Check-out time on August 22 is noon. Participants are responsible for the $200 plus tax late check-out fee per room if they miss the noon check-out deadline. This will be billed by HMNS.
- Adult beverages are not included in the trip package, but can be purchased at the Hotel bar.
- The Hilton Garden Inn is a smoke-free hotel.
- Use of tobacco, e-cigarettes and illegal drugs are not permitted during group activities.
- Firearms are not permitted in group activities.
- Prior to trip, participants must complete HMNS Release and Consent form.
- Participants must be self-sufficient and carry their own belongings.
- This trip is rain or shine. In case of weather preventing safe outdoor activities, indoor activities will be provided.
- Some of the meals may be prix fixe. Please alert HMNS Staff of any food allergies in advance of trip.
- Enjoy the awesome natural spectacle of a total solar eclipse!

Cancellation Information

- Deposits for registration are nonrefundable.
- For cancellations after the final payment date of February 10, 2017, a 50% refund of the full trip payment less the $1,000 nonrefundable deposit will be issued. Once the trip is sold-out, if your spot is filled by another traveler, a refund of the remaining 50% of your full trip payment less the $1,000 deposit will be issued.
- If for any reason HMNS must cancel this trip, 100% of deposits and final payments will be refunded.
Houston Museum of Natural Science

Total Solar Eclipse | Casper, Wyoming
August 19 - 22, 2017

www.hmns.org/travel | travel@hmns.org | (713) 639-4769

Price per person (double occupancy):
HMNS Members $2,500, Nonmembers $5,000

Price Includes
• Hotel for 3 nights / 4 days
• All meals (3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners)
• Private viewing area for Eclipse
• Astronomy field guides
• Eclipse activities, viewing practice sessions, photography workshops
• Pre-trip eclipse workshop

Price Does Not Include
• Transportation to/from Casper
• Adult beverages (these can be purchased at Hotel bar)

HMNS Contact Information
www.hmns.org/travel
travel@hmns.org
(713) 693-4769

Single supplement: $1,750 – For those registering as a single traveler, a single supplement will be included in the invoice of your final payment, due February 10, 2017. If you are a single traveler and would like help finding a roommate, please let us know.

Additional 3rd person: $1,250 – A third traveler in a party sharing a room must register with the $1,000 deposit payment. The remaining balance will be included in the invoice of your final payment, due February 10, 2017. A third person in a room with one king bed must be 6 years or younger.

Additional 4th person: $1,250 – A fourth traveler in a party sharing a room must register with the $1,000 deposit payment. The remaining balance will be included in the invoice of your final payment, due February 10, 2017. A fourth person is only allowed in rooms with two queen beds.

Suite upgrades: $725 per room – A limited number of suites are available with one king bed and one sofa bed.

Registration

Members-only early-bird price for HMNS Members registering by March 31, 2016 is $2,250 per person for double occupancy. This price increases on April 1 to $2,500 double occupancy for HMNS Members. Nonmember price is $5,000 per person double occupancy.

Participants can register for this trip at the HMNS Box Office, online at www.hmns.org/travel or by calling (713) 639-4629. Registration requires a paid deposit: HMNS Members $1,000 per person, nonmembers $1,750. By registering, you agree to the “Participant Requirements and Responsibilities” and “Cancellation Information” on page 7 of this document. Final payment is required by February 10, 2017.

Within a week of registration / deposit payment, you will receive a confirmation email from HMNS. At this time you can let us know your roommate and room preference: two queen beds or one king bed. Suite upgrades are available with limited supply.

Waiting List

To be placed on the waiting list once the trip is sold out, email travel@hmns.org.