

#### **ITINERARY AT A GLANCE**

Day 1: Saturday, April 6

Arrival to LoneHollow Ranch Explore the property Welcome dinner Evening stargazing, night hike

#### Day 2: Sunday, April 7

Daytime activities
Practice setup for totality
Afternoon exploration and activities
Evening stargazing, night hike

#### Day 3: Monday, April 8

Final preparations Experience totality Farewell

Optional: Overnight stay to avoid traffic for an additional fee

#### **PRICING**

Single Bunks \$1,375 HMNS Members Early-Bird per person \$1,475 HMNS Members per person

Large group? Cabins are available for groups of 12-22 people.

**Ages 6+.** Each minor must be accompanied by one ticketed adult guardian.

#### REGISTRATION REQUIRES

\$1,575 Non-Members per person

- Per person non-refundable deposit:
   \$1,000 HMNS Members and Non-Members
- Completed registration form (pages 7-10)
- Copy of each person's ID (for ages 18+)

Final payment due March 25, 2024.

Imagine darkness increasing as the new moon glides 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.

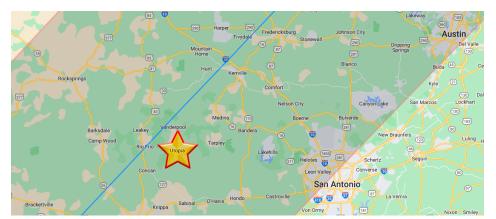
Behind the Moon's black disk, red prominences flow outward from the Sun's hidden photosphere. In an instant, a pearly corona with streamers of glowing gas appear, surrounding the Sun's darkened disk. In one moment your world is magically transformed, because this single event is both real and surreal.

After four awe-inducing minutes, the shadow moves slowly on, leaving you in sunlight with images and memories to cherish.

Join the Houston Museum of Natural Science at LoneHollow Ranch, a luxury ranch getaway, for an experience of a lifetime: a total solar eclipse, last seen in Texas in 1878 and not again until 2045.

Only Option A (Single Bunks) are currently available.











#### **LOCATION**

LoneHollow Ranch is 3,000 acres of adventure and natural Texas beauty. Two miles of paved roads throughout reveal thoughtfully planned pastures, longhorn cattle, a variety of multi-colored ponies, and glimpses of wildlife such as jackrabbits, armadillos, road runners and the other South Texas creatures rarely seen in the city. There are also three spring-fed lakes nestled at the base of the land formation flowing into the river, and at night, millions of stars reveal themselves in the inky sky, one of many reminders of the vastness of space.

#### TRIP STAFF

#### **HMNS Astronomy Crew**

James Wooten, Astronomer with 27 years at the Museum and degrees from MIT and Rice Henrry Ramos, Planetarium & Discovery Dome Operator and bilingual in Spanish Will Yokley, Planetarium & Discovery Dome Operator Ken Hayes, Expedition Center Director

#### Nicole Temple, HMNS Vice President of Education

Nicole Temple's responsibilities include all facets of the Museum associated with HMNS programming for adults as well as the nearly 400,000 students that participate in programming annually. During her tenure at HMNS, she has cultivated international partnerships, created content for Giant Screen Films, and helped to develop several exhibits including Death by Natural Causes. Due to the nature of the Museum and its programming, Temple's skills run the gamut and include everything from curriculum development to taxidermy.

#### **HMNS Education Crew**

Experienced field crew members from the Museum's Education Department will be onsite to help provide an experience that is educational and entertaining. We are bringing the Museum experience to LoneHollow Ranch with activities such as critter walks, eclipse arts & crafts, learning about the geology and paleontology of the area, birdwatching, games, night hikes, and more!







#### **LODGING**

Single bunk housing features bunk beds, and semi-private bathrooms with communal sinks, curtained showers, and toilets with doors.

Private rooms feature a variety of bunk beds, twin beds, and queen or king sized beds with a pillowtop mattress along with private bathrooms.

Suites offer additional luxury with extra living space, upgraded finishes, and a home away from home feel.



Option	Room	Туре	Beds	Early-Bird Member	Member	Non-Member
Α	Single Bunk	Cabin	Bunk Beds	1,375	1,475	1,575
В	Private Room	2-person	1 Queen	3,300	3,500	3,700
С	Private Room	3-person	1 Queen, 1 Twin	4,950	5,250	5,550
D	Private Room	4-person	2 Queens	6,600	7,000	7,400
Е	Private Room	4-person	2 Bunk Beds	6,600	7,000	7,400
F	Private Room	4-person	4 Twins	6,600	7,000	7,400
G	Private Room	5-person	1 Queen, 3 Twins	8,250	8,750	9,250
Н	Private Room	6-person	1 Queen, 4 Twins	9,900	10,500	11,100
	Premium Suite	4-person	1 King, 1 Sleeper Sofa	8,956	9,356	9,756
J	Premium Suite	4-person	1 King, 2 Twins	10,136	10,536	10,936
K	Executive Suite	4-person	1 King, 2 Twins	14,140	14,540	14,940

NOTE: All pricing is in USD. Single Bunk price is per person. Private Room and Suite price is per room.

Single Bunks and Private Rooms come with unmade beds, and you will need to make your own bed. Linens are provided.



### **ITINERARY SATURDAY, APRIL 6** (D) **Welcome Dinner & Orientation**

After your afternoon arrival to LoneHollow Ranch, enjoy exploring the ranch before dinner. A Welcome Dinner will be held in the dining hall. Nicole Temple will review all of the activities for the next two days. The Astronomy Crew will review weather reports and the latest images of activity on the sun, explain compass directions for the eclipse event, and lead evening stargazing. The daytime temperature will be around 80 F with evening lows around 50 F.

#### **Evening Stargazing, Night Hike**

Telescopes for solar photography can also show the wonders of the spring sky. Brilliant Orion and Jupiter are in the west as night falls. You can discover star clusters, double stars, nebulae and even other galaxies in the dark Texas 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.

Alternatively, you can enjoy a night hike with Museum Staff, where you might discover nocturnal critters such as scorpions, who also happen to fluoresce under a black light.

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 7** (B, L, D) **Ranch Exploration**

After breakfast, you are free to watch exciting planetarium programs in our portable dome theater and enjoy activities around the ranch such as playing games, birding, hiking, crafting, photography lessons and more! An early lunch will be served in the dining hall.

Rattlesnake Point Hike: At an elevation of approximately 2,000 feet, you quickly forget that you are looking across the Texas Hill Country, but wonder if you might be in Colorado. There are two hike options for guests, a one-hour long hike and a shorter 25-minute hike. At the top, you are rewarded with a beautiful view of the valley below and are invited to stay awhile to soak it in.

#### **Eclipse Simulation & Afternoon**

After an early lunch, we will equip binoculars and cameras for viewing the sun's partial phases and attaching solar filters to telescopes. Then at noon we will begin the practice for totality, selecting our locations 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 afternoon. Because we have the whole ranch, we can make all the arrangements we need for the best viewing. After the simulation and finding your perfect spot to view the eclipse tomorrow, you are welcome to relax, continue to enjoy provided activities, watch a show in the planetarium dome, or continue exploring the ranch.

#### **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.

#### **Evening Stargazing, Night Hike**

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. Tonight is also another chance to go on a night hike with Museum Staff.

#### **MONDAY, APRIL 8** (B, L)

In the morning, everyone will pack up and then enjoy a delicious breakfast in anticipation of the big event. Everyone has the freedom to observe the entire eclipse experience at their leisure. All belongings must be out of your room by 10 a.m.

#### **Total Solar Eclipse 2024**

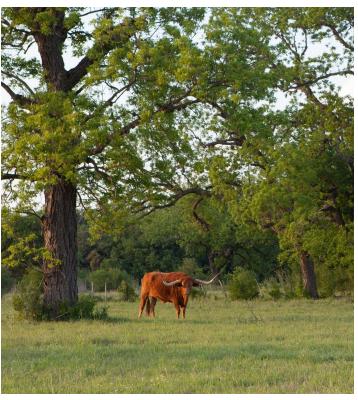
The HMNS Astronomy Crew will provide commentary on the phases of the Eclipse and instruction on using your eclipse-viewing glasses and photography equipment. The eclipse experience occurs in early afternoon beginning with first contact, when the Moon's disk first appears in front of the Sun at 12:13:33 PM. We must wait until 1:30:53 PM for the beginning of totality which lasts 4 minutes and 26 seconds, ending at 1:35:19 PM. The brilliant planet Venus to the lower right of the eclipsed sun and the giant Jupiter to its upper left will make totality even more exciting. We can then relax as the Moon completes its trip across the Sun's disk at 2:54:25 PM.





**PRE-TRIP EVENTS** 

Pre-trip programs to practice and prepare for the big event will be scheduled for the spring of 2024.



We will focus on the spectacular night sky in April and cover what equipment is best for capturing the eclipse and for stargazing. Photography options exist from cell phones to cameras with telescopes to capture wide angle views of the sky and telephoto videos. You will have experts to help you make the best decision and to provide equipment to share. At the ranch, you will receive filters for your cameras and glasses for you to wear during the eclipse's partial phases.

We will also review all equipment in time for you to purchase batteries and other items from your preferred retailer, which will be in very short supply leading up to the event. We will also practice in the Burke Baker Planetarium with the day and night skies over Utopia.

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

#### **INCLUDED ACTIVITIES AT LONEHOLLOW RANCH**

Adventure awaits you at LoneHollow Ranch. Activities for all ages can be found at every turn, making your stay memorable. Opportunities include planetarium shows in our portable dome, day and night hiking, arts & crafts, stargazing, relaxing in rocking chairs around a blazing fire pit, bug collecting, basketball, tennis, pickleball, wiffleball, volleyball, cornhole, nine square, frisbee golf, and more!

#### **PACKING LIST**

Weather in April in Utopia, TX averages 50 F in the evening to 80 F during the day, described as mildly cool and breezy.

- Lightweight, layered clothing
- Light jacket/sweater, in case it gets chilly at night
- Rain jacket
- Closed-toe shoes to hike
- Flashlight for night hike
- Camera, telescope, extra batteries, extra SD cards, and power cords for overnight charging
- Toiletries
- Money for camp store and snack bar

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 6 meals (2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners)
- Accommodations for 2 nights
- All activities
- Protective, commemorative eyewear
- Protective film for your camera and telescope lenses
- The chance to see THE BEST DARN LITTLE ECLIPSE IN TEXAS!

#### **PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE**

Adult beverages

# **PRICING - ECLIPSE 2024** Single Bunks

\$1,375 HMNS Members Early-Bird per person

\$1,475 HMNS Members per person \$1,575 Non-Members per person

Large group? Cabins are available for groups of 12-22 people.

#### **Price Includes:**

- 6 meals (2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners)
- Accommodations for 2 nights
- All activities
- Protective, commemorative eyewear
- Protective film for your camera and telescope lenses

#### Prices Do Not Include:

Adult beverages

#### REGISTRATION

Registration requires (A) for Single Bunks, a per person deposit of \$1,000 for HMNS Members and Non-Members, and for Private Rooms, Premium Suites and Executive Suite, a deposit equal to the max capacity of room x \$1,000 per person HMNS Members and Non-Members, (B) completed registration form (pages 7-10), (C) copy of your valid ID (applicable to ages 18+).

This trip is for ages 6+. Each minor must be accompanied by one ticketed adult guardian.

By registering, you understand and agree to the Cancellations & Refunds and Traveler Terms & Conditions listing Physical Requirements; Participant Requirements, Responsibilities and Notices; Participation Advisory; Houston Museum of Natural Science - Release and Consent, and LoneHollow Ranch -Release and Consent.

Availability is based by order of complete registration.

Final payment is due March 25, 2024.

#### **CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS**

- Cancellations must be received by HMNS in writing.
- Cancellations received on or before December 4, 2023 will forfeit 10% of the final payment and 100% of the deposit.
- Cancellations received between December 5, 2023 and January 4, 2024 will forfeit 50% of the final payment and 100% of the deposit.
- Cancellations received between January 5 and February 4, 2024 will forfeit 85% of the final payment and 100% of the deposit.
- Cancellations received February 5, 2024 and beyond and "no shows" will forfeit 100% of the final payment and 100% of the deposit.
- No refunds will be made for missed group activities on the trip, including meals, accommodations, transportation transfers, tours and any other services voluntarily not taken.
- If for any reason HMNS or LoneHollow Ranch cancels this trip, HMNS will use commercially reasonable efforts to

- work with travelers and LoneHollow Ranch to refund all recoverable funds but does not guarantee that a full refund will be available. HMNS reserves the right to cancel, postpone or reschedule the trip for any reason and at any point in time, up to and including during the period of travel.
- It is recommended that travelers secure their own travel insurance policies to cover the circumstance that some funds are unrecoverable through HMNS and LoneHollow Ranch.
- I have read and accept the terms stated above in Cancellations & Refunds. Initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **TRAVELER TERMS & CONDITIONS**

Acknowledgment and agreement to the below traveler terms and conditions by signature on the registration form is required for trip registration.

#### **Physical Requirements**

- This trip requires physical independence and mobility. Participants should be in good physical condition and capable of traversing unpaved terrain.
- Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible to assist them.
- Participants are responsible for carrying their own luggage and belongings.
- Travelers must be able to climb stairs and step on unpaved terrain without assistance or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion.
- Unfortunately, handicap accessibility is not in all areas.
- In case of an emergency situation, any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or other assistance must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. This includes allergies, dietary restrictions, as well as mental, mobility, vision and hearing impairments. HMNS may make efforts to accommodate such condition or impairments in its sole discretion, but each participant is solely responsible for any physical or mental condition or other impairments.
- If asked, participants will provide a written release from your doctor stating your level of physical fitness or mental health is adequate for this trip.
- Notify travel@hmns.org prior to registration to inquire about accommodations that are necessary for you to enjoy the trip prior to registration. HMNS may make efforts to make special accommodations in its sole discretion, but each participant is solely responsible for such special accommodations.
- I have read and accept the terms stated above in *Physical* Requirements. Initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Participant Requirements, Responsibilities & Notices

- Participants should be in good physical condition and capable of traversing unpaved terrain. Unfortunately, not all areas are handicap accessible. Please check with HMNS prior to registration if you have any required accessibility accommodations that are necessary for you to enjoy the trip prior to registration. HMNS may make efforts to make special accommodations in its sole discretion, but each participant is solely responsible for accessibility accommodations.
- Participants must be self-sufficient and carry their own belongings and luggage.
- Participants are expected to conduct themselves in a safe and courteous manner. Unsafe, unprofessional, or otherwise inappropriate behavior (as determined by the staff) could result in your immediate dismissal from the trip with no refund for missed activities.
- Participants of this trip are not permitted to keep any artifact, fossil or partial fossil found or discovered on this trip.
- Trip leaders and staff will be treated with utmost courtesy
  at all times. Trip leaders and staff are there not only to
  instruct but also to ensure the safety of the property as
  well as the participants.
- The minimum age of participant for this trip is 6 years.
   Each minor must be accompanied by one ticketed adult guardian. Guardians are responsible for the supervision and safety of their minors. Misbehaving or disrespectful minors could be asked, along with their parents/guardians, to leave the trip with no refund for missed activities.
- At times participants may be in isolated locations where response to a medical emergency could be lengthy, or emergency responses may not be available.
- Smoking (including e-cigarettes) and open flames outside of the designated fire pit are not permitted at the site.
- All accommodations are smoke-free.
- Illegal substances and firearms are not allowed.
- All travelers must bring a device with WhatsApp for communication with trip leaders during trip.
- Participants are not considered registered participants until their receipt of Trip Confirmation Notification from HMNS. This requires a fully completed registration form, paid deposit and copy of ID.
- No partial refunds will be made for missed activities.
   Participants who are late are responsible for making their own arrangements to meet the group.
- The trip itinerary and accommodations are subject to change due to inclement weather and unforeseen events.
- Participants must book their own transportation to arrive in Utopia, Texas.
- Room choices are processed by order received with completed paperwork and paid deposit.
- Room configuration cannot be guaranteed. We will try to accommodate preferences.
- Participant Requirements, Responsibilities & Notices.
  Initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Participation Advisory**

- Trip leaders and staff have the right to deny a participant's
  participation in an activity if, in the sole judgment and
  discretion of HMNS or LoneHollow Ranch, the participant
  and safety of others could be compromised. You should
  only sign up for this trip if you are confident you are
  capable of the physical requirements and responsibilities
  listed above.
- HMNS reserves the right to accept or decline any individuals as members of the trip.
- HMNS reserves the right to charge an extended service fee for travelers who require additional assistance during the trip.
- I have read and accept the terms stated above in Participation Advisory. Initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE - RELEASE AND CONSENT

- Although HMNS hopes that no participant is ever injured or hurt, injuries are a possibility of participation in this Trip. The risk of injuries, illness and death is a risk that the participant voluntarily agrees to assume in exchange for the privilege of registering for and participating in the Trip. The participant understands and agrees that this risk is not a risk that HMNS, its contractors including LoneHollow Ranch, or employees assumes and that HMNS is not responsible for any injuries to the participant.
- Accordingly, the participant voluntarily releases, discharges, and waives the right to sue HMNS and its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, contractors, representatives and all persons acting by, through under or in concert with HMNS (collectively, the "Released Parties") for any and all losses, demands, claims, suits, causes of action, liability, costs, expenses, and judgments whether arising in equity, at common law, or by statute, under the law of contracts, torts, or property, for personal injury (including without limitation emotional distress), illness, death or damage to property, arising in favor of the participant or anyone claiming through us based upon, in connection with, relating to or arising out of, directly or indirectly, the participant's participation in the Eclipse 2024 trip (collectively, "Claims") even if any such claims are due to the Released Parties' own negligence, strict liability without regard to fault, violation of statute, or other fault, including any negligent act, omission, or intentional act intended to promote my safety or well-being.
- The participant hereby gives his/her permission to the Released Parties to obtain emergency medical treatment for the participant if any Released Party deems in its discretion that such emergency medical treatment is necessary. The Released Parties have no liability as to any such medical treatment, including the outcome of such medical treatment, or whether such medical treatment is provided to a participant.

- The participant acknowledges and agrees that any photos, videos, pictorial images, voice recordings, or quotations including those of participant taken, created or shared by any Released Party (including without limitation any taken by any photographer or videographer paid by or volunteering for any Released Party) during or relating to the Program may be used by HMNS in future publications, web pages, promotions, advertisements, social media and exhibits of HMNS (or any other person authorized to use such images by HMNS) without the need of any additional permission from or consideration to the participant.
- I release and waive for myself and anyone claiming through me all claims based on the right of privacy, right of publicity, moral rights, or any other intellectual property rights related to the rights granted by me to HMNS. Initial here:
- I have read and accept the terms stated above in *Houston Museum of Natural Science Release and Consent*. Initial here:

#### **LONEHOLLOW RANCH - RELEASE AND CONSENT**

- I voluntarily release and agree to hold harmless and indemnify the LoneHollow Ranch, their staff and volunteers, and all other persons or entities acting in any capacity on its behalf, from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, or rights of action, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, relating to or arising out of my presence or activities while on a LoneHollow Ranch field trip.
- I give LoneHollow Ranch staff and/or volunteers permission to assist in medical assistance in the event of an emergency. Please contact my emergency contact listed on the Registration Form in case of emergency.
- I give LoneHollow Ranch permission to use my image in photographs in print or digital media.
- I have read and accept the terms stated above in LoneHollow Ranch - Release and Consent. Initial here:
- I understand that I may have additional Release and Consent forms from LoneHollow Ranch to sign. Initial here:



HMNS Membership #:Cell Phone:		
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3,500	3,700	
5,250	5,550	
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document and I understand and agree to the Cancellations & Refunds and Traveler Terms & Conditions (pages 7-9) listing Physical Requirements; Participant Requirements, Responsibilities and Notices; Participation Advisory; Houston Museum of Natural Science -

Release and Consent; and LoneHollow Ranch - Release and Consent.

## Participant Signature Date