

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada**  
invite you to explore

**Arizona & New Mexico Skies**  
**Kitt Peak, Meteor Crater, VLA, Hot Air Balloons**  
**September 27 - October 5, 2016**

**TOUR INCLUDES**

- \*Airport/hotel transfers for arrivals 09/27 and departures 10/0
- \*Accommodations: 3-nights Tucson, 2-nights Flagstaff, 1-night Chinle, 2-nights Albuquerque
- \*Meals: All breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 5 Dinners
- \*Visits: Kitt Peak National Observatory, Mount Lemmon SkyCenter, Lowell Observatory, Arizona Meteor Crater, VLA
- \*Sightseeing: Sedona, Canyon de Chelly, Hot Air Balloon Festival
- \*Fully escorted and scientific guides
- \*Astronomical lectures

**Tuesday, September 27, 2016**                      **Arrive Tucson**                      **D**  
Your tour begins in Tucson, where great astronomical research continues to explore new vistas for the next generation of astronomers. Join MWT Tour Director for Welcome Orientation Dinner tonight.

**Wednesday, September 28, 2016**                      **Kitt Peak National Observatory**                      **B/L**  
After breakfast enjoy the Southwest scenery as you drive up the slopes of Quinlan Mountains in the Arizona-Sonoran Desert to Kitt Peak National Observatory, home of the largest array of optical and radio telescopes in the world and the Tohono O'odham Nation. Tour the Mayall 4-meter optical telescope and the Solar Telescopes.

**Thursday, September 29, 2016**                      **UofA Mirror Lab & SkyCenter**                      **B/L**  
The University of Arizona is ranked #1 among observational, theoretical and space astronomy programs in the U.S. Visit the Richard F. Caris Mirror Lab. The tour provides insight to the cutting edge astronomical research and technology involving in making the next generation of telescopes that will explore deep into outer space. Visit the Mount Lemmon SkyCenter and view through the center's 32-inch Shulman Telescope during the after-dark program

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**Friday, September 30, 2016**                      **Tucson - Flagstaff**                      **B/L**

On route to Flagstaff, continue to the artist colony of Sedona, which is surrounded by beautiful, towering red rock formations. A stop for lunch and time to explore a few of Sedona's art galleries. Continue through a spectacular 12 mile-long chasm of Oak Creek Canyon for a relaxing two night stay in Flagstaff.

**Saturday, October 1, 2016                      Lowell Observatory                      B/L/D**

Today meet for an astronomical seminar. After lunch the journey ventures up Mars Hill to Percival Lowell's Historic Lowell Observatory. Visit the 24" Alvan Clark refractor and the Pluto Discovery telescope along with the 4.3 meter Discovery Channel Telescope. After stargazing tonight return to the hotel.

**Sunday, October 2, 2016   Arizona Meteor Crater & Canyon de Chelly                      B/D**

Today the tour continues toward Chinle with a stop at the Arizona Meteor Crater, which impacted over 50,000 years ago. After viewing the film "Collisions and Impacts", take a walk around the top of the 550 feet deep caldera.

A lunch stop will be at the oldest, continuously operating trading post of the Navajo Nations, the *Hubbell Trading Post*.

Upon arrival explore *Canyon de Chelly*, where sheer sandstone walls rise up to 1,000 feet, several scenic overlooks, many well-preserved ruins. The pre-historic Anasazi, the Hopi and the Navajo all dwelled here. *Canyon de Chelly National Monument* is now entirely Navajo tribal trust land with a resident community within the canyons.

**Monday, October 3, 2016                      Very Large Array                      B/L/D**

In route to Albuquerque we continue south to Socorro and the *Very Large Array*, one of the world's premier astronomical radio observatories, consisting of 27 radio antennas on the Plains of San Agustin. Each antenna is 85 feet in diameter set on railroad tracks laid out in a Y. The data from the antennas is combined electronically to give the resolution of an antenna 22 miles across, with the sensitivity of the dish 422 feet in diameter.

**Tuesday, October 4, 2016 Albuquerque Balloon Festival                      B/D**

Bring your cameras out for the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival this morning. Later today stroll around Old Town Albuquerque before wine tasting this afternoon.

**Wednesday, October 5, 2016                      Albuquerque - Homeward                      B**

Transfer to the airport for your homeward flights.

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## **CONTACTS**

### **HOTELS**

Best Western Royal Sun Inn & Suites  
1015 N. Stone Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 95705  
866-538-6207

Embassy Suites, Flagstaff  
706 South Milton Rd.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
(928)774-4333

Garcia Trading Post  
Indn Rte 7  
Chinle, AZ 86503  
(928)674-5000

Hotel Albuquerque  
800 Rio Grande Blvd NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104