

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world with Carleton College

A Star So Dark Frequently Asked Questions

What's this trip really going to be like?

It's going to be a weekend of learning, leisure time in Salem, and quality time spent with fellow Carls. The trip will be balanced with discussions, lectures, a local winery tour, and time for exploration of Downtown Salem.

There will be ample time to connect as a group and individually with Joel and special guests. Joel and his partner Janet Watchman will also be part of our informal social time, meals, and receptions.

A final itinerary will be made available to participants in March.

How do I get to and from the airport?

Because Oregon traffic is predicted to be gridlocked during this weekend and Willamette's campus is 60 miles away from the airport, Carleton is arranging a private shuttle for our group.

On Saturday, August 19, the shuttle will depart Portland International Airport (PDX) at 3 p.m. Please arrange your flights to arrive **at least 1 hour prior** so any delays can be accounted for and baggage can be collected. Should your flight be delayed or you choose to arrive after 3 p.m., you will be responsible for finding your own way to Willamette University.

Likewise, on Tuesday, August 22, we have arranged for a shuttle to drive our group from Willamette to PDX. The shuttle will leave promptly at 8:30 a.m. to allow ample time for traffic and TSA check-in. **Participants are strongly advised to arrange flights that depart after 12:30 p.m.**

We believe our shuttle service will provide you with the best and easiest experience.

Should I rent or bring my car on this trip?

Salem and vicinity are expected to be traffic-choked during this weekend (for this reason, we will not try to drive off to pursue cloud-free regions). Our activities will take place within walking

distance of Willamette and in cases when not, transportation will be provided. A car might well be more trouble than it is worth.

What about accommodations? Where will we be staying?

We've found that hotels in the area are charging exorbitant prices during this weekend. Thanks to our friends at Willamette, we will stay in dormitories for a much lower rate. Dorms do indicate a high probability of shared bathrooms and showers. More information about the rooms, including suggestions on items you may wish to bring from home, will be available in the spring.

I want to bring my children along. Will there be childcare available?

The ideal age for this adventure is college-age and up. Childcare will not be provided and child-friendly activities are not being planned.

How active is this trip? How physically fit do I need to be?

Walking, and occasionally at night, will be a central part of this trip. Downtown Salem is within a 20-minute walk of Willamette's campus.

Will weather be a factor in viewing the eclipse?

Absolutely. Eclipse experts predict a 50% probability that we'll have a clear sky at the time of the eclipse.

We're planning a number of activities that will proceed as planned regardless of the weather.

What kind of weather can I expect during the trip?

While it will be August, it will be August in Oregon. Average temperatures for our location (Willamette Valley) vary greatly and can range from the mid 80's during the day to high 50's in the evenings. We recommend packing layers so you can dress to your comfort during time we spend both in and outdoors.

What should I wear for this?

Generally, we hope you will dress for comfort. What you wear to a Carleton Reunion is appropriate for this adventure, though we would like to emphasize that most will be comfortable with layered clothing. Keep in mind that you may like to have a jacket and sweater for evenings of stargazing in 50° weather.

Below is an initial packing list:

Jacket and Sweater (especially one that can be layered easily if you get chilly)

Long pants
Walking shoes
Sunscreen
Binoculars
Hat

What kind of communication should I expect from Carleton staff?

Staff will email the participant group approximately three times between registration and the trip to provide more information and answer general questions. In interim periods, feel free to connect with Sarah Forster (sforster@carleton.edu).

What if, at the last minute, I can no longer attend the trip?

Please let us know as soon as possible if you need to cancel. We will take care of informing Willamette. If we are able to fill your spot on the trip, we will grant you a refund.