

ROAD SCHOLAR

Adventures in Lifelong Learning

From Fields to Fridge: What's Growing in Ventura County Information Packet



Program # 14490

March 30 - April 4, 2014

ROAD SCHOLAR

Elderhostel, Inc.

11 Avenue de Lafayette
Boston, MA 02111-1746
(617) 426-7788 tel
www.roadscholar.org

Dear Road Scholar Participant,

We are delighted that you have enrolled in this exciting educational adventure. Our programming office in Ventura, CA, serves as your Program Provider and works closely with Road Scholar headquarters to make sure that your program meets our high standards.

This packet includes important information that will help you prepare for your upcoming program. Inside you'll find your program itinerary, accommodation details and information on practical matters. Whether this is your first Road Scholar experience or whether you are a seasoned traveler with us, please read all materials carefully. We encourage you to pay particular attention to the page of this packet titled "Important Information."

This packet may also contain the forms required for your program, which must be completed and returned as soon as possible, but no later than 3 weeks prior to program departure, to our Road Scholar office in Ventura, CA.

If you have questions about your payments or enrollment status, please contact Road Scholar Participant Services toll free at 877-426-8056. If you have any questions about your educational program after reading this information, please feel free to contact our office directly at 805-654-0665.

On behalf of everyone at Road Scholar, I extend my best wishes for a memorable and rewarding learning adventure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Moses', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Moses
Road Scholar President

YOU CAN'T FIND A BETTER VALUE THAN ROAD SCHOLAR

All of your Road Scholar program components are included in the program cost. That means there are no extra “options,” no passing the hat for tips and no surprises. From lectures and field trips to gratuities and accommodations - the price you pay up front is the price you pay.

Specifically, this program includes:

5 nights accommodations

Meals: 14; 5 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 5 Dinners

Expert-led lectures: 3

Field trips: 10

Hands-on experiences: 1

- Learning led by expert instructors who are authorities in the field of study.
- An experienced Group Leader attuned to the needs of Road Scholar participants.
- Group transportation throughout the program.
- Customary gratuities throughout the program that you would normally pay yourself.
- The Road Scholar Travel Assistance Plan, providing 24-hour-a-day emergency assistance coverage.
- Taxes.

WHOM TO CONTACT FOR WHAT

In order to make this educational travel experience possible for you, the following offices of Road Scholar will work together to provide the necessary arrangements and information.

For questions about Registration, Insurance, and Payments, contact:

Road Scholar

11 Avenue de Lafayette

Boston, MA 02111-1746

Toll-free telephone: 877-426-8056

Email: registration@roadscholar.org

For questions about your Educational Program, contact:

Road Scholar

3160 Telegraph Rd., Suite 100

Ventura, CA 93003-3248

Telephone: 805-654-0665

Fax: 805-654-0557

Email: roadscholarventura@roadscholar.org

MEET YOUR FELLOW PARTICIPANTS ONLINE!

Visit www.roadscholar.org/socialnetwork

When you participate in your upcoming Road Scholar educational adventure, not only will you learn about the world's great places, peoples and pursuits, but you'll be in the company of other enthusiastic learners who share many of your own interests. But why wait until you're on your program to meet these great people!

Meet your fellow participants right now on our online social network - The Road Scholar Social Network. Visit www.roadscholar.org/socialnetwork to get started.

It's easy to join, and once you set up your profile you can:

- Meet participants on your program
- Ask questions and share your experiences
- Share your photos, videos and reviews
- Engage in a stimulating dialogue with other lifelong learners on our discussion boards
- Find a roommate or someone to share a ride with on your upcoming program
- Set up email alerts and customize your profile with our easy-to-use privacy controls

Visit www.facebook.com/rsadventures

Join Road Scholar on Facebook **for the latest news and special offers.**

YOUR ROAD SCHOLAR MAILINGS

- This Information Packet provides details about your itinerary and accommodations, information on practical matters such as health and safety, money, weather and packing, map(s), a suggested reading list, and other things you will want to know about your upcoming program.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The Road Scholar Participant Information Form is required.

This form can be completed online or via traditional paper forms. Please refer to the page of this packet titled "Important Information" for more information. Whether you use our online form or the print version, please complete your information as soon as possible, but no later than March 09, 2014.

On the enclosed Participant Information Form, please indicate to us the name of your roommate/traveling companion. Also let us know if you are traveling with other individuals and wish to be assigned a room near them.

Photo ID

GETTING THERE

Start of Program

Sunday, March 30, 2014: Program registration is between 3:30-5:00PM in the hotel lobby. Orientation begins at 5:30PM followed by dinner at 6:00PM. Self introductions after dinner. You will be staying at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach that night.

End of Program

Friday, April 4, 2014: Please arrange your transportation so you can join us for the final activity which will end about 10:30AM. You will be staying at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach the night before.

Driving Directions

Northbound Highway 101	Going North on Hwy 101, take the California St. exit. Turn left onto California St. at the top of the exit ramp. Turn right onto Harbor Blvd. then left into the hotel parking lot.
Southbound Highway 101 to Crowne Plaza Ventura Hotel	Going South on Hwy 101, take the Ventura Ave. exit. Turn right on Thompson Blvd. and continue for approximately 4 blocks to California St. Turn right on California St. and go over the freeway to Harbor Blvd. The Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach hotel will be directly ahead. Turn right onto Harbor Blvd. then immediately left into the hotel parking lot.

Parking Information

Complimentary parking is available in the lot adjacent to the hotel, but the parking pass needs to be validated at the front desk.

Getting There

LAX to Ventura by VCA Shuttle

Service:

Per Person/One Way:

Travel Time:

Distance:

From Airport

Commercial Van/Shuttle

Ventura Co. Airporter Shuttle

Phone: 805-650-6600

Advanced Reservations Required

\$35 P/P to drop-off point in Ventura; then taxi to Crowne Plaza @ \$15

Prices are subject to change.

1 hr 15 min to drop-off point + taxi ride (additional 20-25 min for wait time and ride)

67 miles from LAX to Holiday Inn Express at Ventura Harbor
VCA Shuttle offers 8 daily trips to/from LAX and Ventura at a great price p/p. However, it drops off passengers at the Holiday Inn Express at Ventura Harbor, 3.5 miles from Crowne Plaza Hotel. From the drop-off point you need to call a taxi to get a ride to the Crowne Plaza.

Call Yellow Taxi Cab at 805-659-6900 at \$15 per ride.

CALL FOR PICK UP TIMES & CURRENT FARE AS PRICE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. Advance reservations are required.

VCA Shuttle website: www.venturashuttle.com

Santa Barbara/ SBA to Ventura

Service:

Per Person/One Way:

Travel Time:

Distance:

From Airport

Commercial Van/Shuttle

Road Runner Shuttle

Phone: 800-247-7919

Advanced Reservations Required

\$73 per person one-way

Prices are subject to change.

40-45 min from Santa Barbara Airport to the Crowne Plaza-Ventura Beach

38 miles from Santa Barbara Airport to the Crowne Plaza-Ventura Beach

Call for current rates as prices are subject to change without notice.

Website: www.rrshuttle.com

Roadrunner Shuttle local phone: 805-389-8196

Santa Barbara Airport website: www.flysba.com

Santa Barbara Airport Info Phone: 805-683-4011

*** Rental cars are also available at SB Airport

Los Angeles/LAX to Ventura
Service:

Per Person/One Way:

Travel Time:

Distance:

From Airport
Commercial Van/Shuttle
 SuperShuttle

Phone: 800-258-3826

Advanced Reservations Required

\$76 p/p one-way; \$9 each additional passenger

Prices are subject to change.

1 hr 20 min, depending on traffic

71 miles from LAX to Crowne Plaza Ventura Hotel

SuperShuttle is a primary shuttle service for LAX and operates continuously at the airport. Call for current rates and to arrange pick-up time. Price is subject to change. Advance reservations are required.

Website: www.supershuttle.com

On Arrival at LAX: Claim your luggage, proceed outside & look for the shared ride van sign on the inside curb just outside of Baggage Claim.

ALTERNATE VAN SERVICE: Prime Time Shuttle. For info and reservations, call 800-733-8267; www.primetimeshuttle.com

Los Angeles (LAX) to Ventura
Service:

Per Person/One Way:

Travel Time:

Distance:

From Airport

Commercial Van/Shuttle
 Prime Time Shuttle

Phone: 800-733-8267

Advanced Reservations Required

\$66.50 per person each way

Prices are subject to change.

1 hr 20 min, depending on traffic

71 miles from LAX to Crowne Plaza Ventura Hotel

Call for current rates and to arrange pickup time. Advance reservations are required. Price is estimated and subject to change.

Website: www.primetimeshuttle.com for online reservations and exact fares. On arrival at LAX, claim your luggage, proceed outside and look for the shared ride van sign on the inside curb just outside of baggage claim.

Alternate passenger van service: SuperShuttle at 800-258-3826 or www.supershuttle.com

**Burbank/Bob Hope Airport
(BUR) to Ventura**

Service:

Per Person/One Way:

Travel Time:

Distance:

From Train Station

Train

Amtrak Pacific Surfliner

Phone: 800-872-7245

Advanced Reservations Required

\$21 one-way (Call for current price)

Prices are subject to change.

Train ride is about 1.5 hours between Burbank and Ventura

Around 65 miles from Burbank Airport to the hotel

Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner makes 4-5 stops/day between the Burbank-Bob Hope Airport Station and the Ventura Station, located near the Crowne Plaza Ventura Hotel. See notes for Ventura/Amtrak Station. The Burbank-Bob Hope Airport Station is located at 3750 Empire Ave., Burbank, CA 91505. The station is unstaffed. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL (1-800-872-7245) or visit their website at www.amtrak.com for schedule and ticket information.

Ventura/ Amtrak Station

Service:

Per Person/One Way:

Travel Time:

Distance:

From Train Station

Taxi

Yellow Cab

Phone: 805-437-7977

Minimum fare of \$10 per ride one-way will be charged

Prices are subject to change.

Under 2 minutes

Amtrak Station is 0.3 miles from hotel

Amtrak (1-800-872-7245) provides transportation service to Ventura via the Pacific Surfliner route. The covered Amtrak platform is located outside Seaside Park (Ventura County Fairgrounds) at 20 W. Harbor Blvd. near Figueroa St. You may walk 4 blocks from the station to the hotel, or call a taxi. Amtrak website: www.amtrak.com

PROGRAM SUMMARY

With more than 300,000 acres under cultivation, Ventura County is a cornucopia of foods from avocados to zucchinis. Visit traditional and organic family-owned farms, see what is in season and growing in the fields, go behind the scenes and witness production of beneficial bugs, taste fresh produce in the fields and enjoy wine tastings and food demonstrations, including an outstanding wine tasting and banquet guaranteed to have you returning to this land of plenty.

Highlights

- Visit a local packing house and see how produce is prepared for shipment.
- Join in a local food sorting activity with the National Food Share Project.
- Meet local farmers who share their passion for Ventura County agriculture and its rich heritage.

Activity Particulars

Activity Level **Moderate**: These programs get you on your feet and include activities such as walking up to a mile in a day through a city and standing in a museum for a few hours.

Walking and standing up to one-half mile, some uneven terrain in orchards and fields; stairs in packing house; moving equipment in commercial venues.

See the Special Program Notes to learn more about the Physical Activity Description of this program.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control may require us to adjust the itinerary.

Day 1: Independent Arrivals

Sunday, March 30

Afternoon:

HOTEL CHECK-IN: Check into Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel after 4:00PM

PROGRAM REGISTRATION: After you have your room assignment, come over to the Road Scholar table to register with the program staff and pick up your arrival packet which we'll review during the orientation session before dinner.

ORIENTATION: We'll have an overview of the program ahead and review the up-to-date schedule, responsibilities, safety guidelines, emergency procedures, any other administrative issues, and answer your questions. Please be aware that local circumstances may require adjusting the program elements. In the event of changes, we will notify you as quickly as possible.

We anticipate an exciting week featuring Ventura County agriculture and food.

During the week we will visit traditional and organic farmers in the orchards and fields, tour a packing house and insectary, and participate in a National Food Share project.

Below is a TENTATIVE schedule of activities and field trip destinations. The final schedule will be in your registration packet and be determined by the availability of our agricultural contacts.

We appreciate your understanding.

Dinner:

Dinner at hotel

Menus are contracted for the program and are designed to offer balanced, healthy meals for the participants. This program has only two choices for meals: standard and vegetarian. We are unable to customize menus for individuals. However, we have found that by requesting sauces and dressing to be served on the side, we are able to accommodate various food intolerances and allergies. Vegetarian meals must be requested in advance on your Participant Information Form.

Unfortunately, there are no other special meal options. Participants with special dietary needs should be prepared to avoid certain foods or supplement the regular meal plan as needed.

Evening: CROSSING POINTS: Participants introduce themselves to the rest of the group. Enjoy the remainder of the evening getting to know your fellow participants and discovering what you share beyond a love of lifelong learning.

Note: Participants should be physically fit and in good health. While activities are not strenuous, participants should be aware of the conditions on field trips. Field trip destinations involve getting on/off bus, walking/standing on guided walks, uneven terrain in orchards and fields, stairs in packing houses, and attention to moving equipment in commercial venues.

*Accommodations: Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach
Meals Included: Dinner*

Day 2: Field trip to Sun Valley Growers and Mission Produce/Walking Tour of Ventura Monday, March 31

Breakfast: Breakfast at hotel

Morning: FIELD TRIP: Take a guided walk of Sun Valley Growers, where floral crops thrive year-round in our warm, coastally moderated climate.
Afterwards, visit Mission Produce's highly efficient avocado packing facility where one can watch the entire process from hydro-cooling and washing to the grading and packaging of avocados. Even though California grows avocados year round, Mission Produce is unable to keep up with the ever-growing demand for avocados, so they import avocados from Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru and South Africa.

Lunch: Enjoy a delicious lunch at Fresh and Fabulous Cafe in the historical Woolworth Building

Afternoon: FIELD TRIP: Take a guided walking tour of downtown Ventura with a local historian.

Dinner: Dinner at hotel

Evening: CLASS: The History of Agriculture in Ventura County
This absorbing presentation includes biographical histories of some of Oxnard's early farming families.

*Accommodations: Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 3: Field trip to Ojai/Churchill Orchard/Olive Orchard/Wine tasting Tuesday, April 01

Breakfast: Breakfast at hotel

Morning: FIELD TRIP: Ojai Citrus
The group travels to Ojai for a guided walk of Churchill Orchard in the beautiful East End of the Ojai Valley. The Churchill Orchard grows about 12 acres of several varieties of tangerines--including Pixie tangerines, Page tangors, Seedless Kishu mandarins, Owari Satsuma mandarins as well as a few others. Walk through the orchard with Jim Churchill and enjoy the sweet taste of freshly picked tangerines.
Olive Oil
Enjoy a guided walk through Ojai Olive orchard and sample their estate extra virgin olive oils in the pressing room.

Lunch:	Lunch at a local restaurant
Afternoon:	HANDS ON EXPERIENCE: Wine tasting at a tasting room in the heart Ojai that features wines produced and blended locally.
Dinner:	Dinner at hotel As part of our dinner, the Crowne Plaza Culinary Staff will prepare and demonstrate a dessert for our group.
Evening:	EVENING PROGRAM: Historian lectures on Ventura County's history with seeds, bulbs and flowers.

Accommodations: Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Field trip to Santa Paula/Insectary/Agriculture Museum
Wednesday, April 02

Breakfast:	Breakfast at hotel
Morning:	FIELD TRIP: Santa Paula In a guided walk of Associates Insectary, learn about a variety of beneficial organisms that they raise to help grower-members fight destructive pests which threaten local citrus and avocado crops. FIELD TRIP: View agricultural exhibits at Museum of Ventura County/Agriculture Museum
Lunch:	Lunch at local restaurant
Afternoon:	FIELD TRIP: Hansen Agricultural Center/Faulkner Farm Part of the University of California Cooperative Extension, the grounds and facilities are designed to enhance the well-being of people, plants, and the environment through science-based gardening education.
Dinner:	Dinner at hotel

Accommodations: Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5: Field trip to Strawberry fields/Organic family farm/Food Share/Wine pairing dinner
Thursday, April 03

Breakfast:	Breakfast at hotel
Morning:	FIELD TRIP: Guided walk of strawberry fields Visit with local owners in their strawberry fields and taste freshly picked berries. FIELD TRIP: Organic Farm Meet local farmer, Phil McGrath, and join him for a guided walk of his family-owned organic farm.
Lunch:	Lunch at a local restaurant
Afternoon:	FIELD TRIP AND HANDS ON EXPERIENCE: FOOD Share Discover more about FOOD Share and a related work project through a guided walk of its facility. FOOD Share is a food bank that houses and distributes millions of pounds of food per year to the hungry of Ventura County.

Dinner: Wine and Food Pairing Dinner
As part of our final dinner, the Crowne Plaza Culinary Staff will prepare and demonstrate a dessert for the group

Accommodations: Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: Independent Departures

Friday, April 04

Breakfast: Breakfast at hotel
Morning: CLASS: Food demonstration by cookbook author and chef, Suzanne Landry
HOTEL CHECK OUT: This concludes the program. We hope you have enjoyed our Ventura County Agricultural program and will join us for other rewarding adventure in the future. Best wishes for all your journeys.

Meals Included: Breakfast

PROGRAM STAFF AND INSTRUCTORS

Suzanne Landry

Instructor

Suzanne Landry is the author of *The Passionate Vegetable* and *Fresh Food Matters*. As a fresh food chef and wellness educator, author, and lively guest lecturer for over 25 years, she has inspired many people on their road to health and vitality. *The Passionate Vegetable* earned a Living Now Self-Published Book Award. She was the founder and director of Nature's Table, a natural gourmet cooking school and has served as an industry consultant to manufacturers and retail stores as well as private individuals. Working for the renowned Issels Medical Center, she has developed the nutrition education program for their cancer patients since 2005. An author of numerous articles in newspapers and magazines, she was recently featured in the Santa Barbara Newspress Lifestyle section.

Richard Senate

Instructor

Richard Senate is a Los Angeles native who grew up in the Conejo Valley of Ventura County. A longtime City of Ventura historian, Richard's life took a turn in 1978 when, as part of a team of archaeologists working at a historic mission on the Central Coast, he encountered a ghostly monk. This profound experience led him to the study of psychic phenomena. Richard has since visited nearly 250 haunted sites and his investigations include studios, theaters and mansions in and around Los Angeles.

Cherie Brant

Instructor

Cherie Brant is a writer and historian who enjoys learning and writing about Ventura County history. She is a former board member of the Museum of Ventura County where she has also been a docent for 15 years. Ms. Brant has written 5 books about local history and 2 journals for the Museum, including *Legends of Ventura County*, *Historic Railroads of Ventura County*, and *Keys to the County: Touring Historic Ventura County*. For many years she wrote a weekly column in various Ventura County newspapers, and is a regular contributor to *Central Coast Farm & Ranch* magazine published by the Ventura County Farm Bureau.

John Krist

Instructor

John Krist is the chief executive officer of the Farm Bureau of Ventura County, the region's oldest and largest agricultural association. Before joining the Farm Bureau, he was a journalist for over 24 years, working as an editor, reporter and columnist for the *Ventura County Star*. A published author, John's books include: "Voyage of Rediscovery," based on his experiences retracing the Lewis and Clark trail, and "Living Legacy: The Story of Ventura County Agriculture."

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM

Physical Activity Description

Participants should be physically fit and in good health. While activities are not strenuous, participants should be aware of the conditions on field trips. Field trip destinations involve getting on/off bus, walking/standing on guided walks, uneven terrain in orchards and fields, stairs in packing houses, and attention to moving equipment in commercial venues.

Late Arrival

If you plan to arrive on site after 5:00PM, please notify our office in advance at (805) 654-0665, or call the hotel on Sunday at (805) 648-2100. If timely notification is not received, your room may be released. The Ventura office voicemail is checked over the weekend, so please leave a message if needed.

FREE TIME OPPORTUNITIES

Free time is built into the program to give you the flexibility to pursue the things that interest you. Here are some suggestions for independent exploration. Your program staff will provide additional information and direction for your free time.

Ventura, California:

Museum of Ventura County

100 E. Main Street
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 653-0323

One of the museum's permanent exhibits explores the community's past from the Chumash era through the 21st century. It consists of a fascinating collection of artifacts and displays focusing on Native Americans, Spanish and Mexican pioneers, and European and Yankee settlers. Especially notable are the George Stuart Historical figures, which are intricately carved figures from history that are dressed in elaborate period costume.

www.venturamuseum.org

Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau

101 S. California Street
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 648-2075 or (800) 333-2989

Ventura offers a variety of recreational opportunities such as beach walks, biking and hiking trails, bird watching, camping, golf, sport fishing, water activities and whale watching. The Crowne Plaza Hotel is situated next to the beach and an oceanside boardwalk that stretches for many miles. Some trail heads are within walking distance of the hotel.

www.ventura-usa.com

Mission San Buenaventura

211 E. Main Street
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 643-4318

Mission San Buenaventura was founded in 1782. It is the ninth of California's 21 missions and the last to be established by Father Serra. Visitors will discover a small museum with mission artifacts such as Chumash basketry, a quiet courtyard, and 250 year-old paintings of the Stations of the Cross.

www.sanbuenaventuramission.org

Channel Islands National Park

Five of the eight Channel Islands make up the National Park which is home to more than 2000 species of plants and animals - 145 of which are unique to the islands. Anacapa Island is just 14 miles from Ventura Harbor and is accessible for day trips and overnight camping. The Channel Islands National Park was established by Congress in 1980.

www.islandpackers.com

ACCOMMODATIONS

Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach

Type:

Full Service Hotel

Image:



Description:

Delight in the year-round sunshine of Ventura, California with its miles of clean, uncrowded beaches, spectacular mountainous back country, and the magnificent Channel Islands National Park on the horizon. At the center of it all, right at the water's edge, stands the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel. All of its guest rooms feature magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean and the mountainous curves of the California coastline. It is ideally situated within walking distance of historic downtown Ventura where you will find the San Buenaventura Mission, museums, antique stores, a wide variety of restaurants, bookstores, cafes, clothing shops, and art galleries.

Room Amenities:

All rooms are equipped with Crowne Plaza "Sleep Advantage" bedding; coffee maker; iron/board; hair dryer; high-speed Internet access; 27" TVs; ocean-view balconies; in-room movies. All rooms are non-smoking.

Facility Amenities:

The ocean-front Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach is a 12-story tower with balcony rooms, all with ocean views. There's a great walking path next to the hotel which stretches for miles up and down the coast. Guests enjoy a host of amenities including convenient parking; restaurants with outdoor patio dining; lobby lounge with ocean-front patio seating; room service; heated ocean-front swimming pool; exercise room; and laundry & dry cleaning with same-day service as well as a coin-op laundry.

Wi-Fi Access: Road Scholar participants receive complimentary Wi-Fi Internet access as part of their package. The coverage includes all hotel guest rooms and public areas. Although there is no charge for this service, a password is required. This may be obtained from the front desk staff.

Smoking Allowed:

No

Bathroom:

.

Elevators Available:

Yes

Additional Nights:

Call Laura Moran at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel at (805) 652-5142 to make a reservation for additional nights before or after the program and to inquire about rates.

Check-in Time:

4:00 PM

Check-out Time: 12:00 PM

Contact Information: 450 E. Harbor Blvd.
Ventura, CA 93001

805-648-2100

Web: www.cpventura.com

ACCOMMODATION SCHEDULE

*Please leave the extra copy of the **Accommodation Schedule** with friends or family in case of an emergency.*

Dates	Location	Accommodation
Days 1 - 5 March 30 - April 3, 2014	Ventura, California	Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach 450 E. Harbor Blvd. Ventura, CA 93001 805-648-2100 Web: www.cpventura.com

ACCOMMODATION SCHEDULE

Dates	Location	Accommodation
Days 1 - 5 March 30 - April 3, 2014	Ventura, California	Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach 450 E. Harbor Blvd. Ventura, CA 93001 805-648-2100 Web: www.cpventura.com

PRACTICAL MATTERS

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Road Scholar Travel Assistance Plan

Your Road Scholar program cost includes the **Road Scholar Travel Assistance Plan**. The primary purpose of this plan is to provide 24-hour emergency assistance for medical and other emergencies. In addition, the plan provides emergency evacuation, motor vehicle return and baggage delay insurance. The policy operates on a reimbursement basis and if you have medical or other emergency expenses during the program you must be prepared to pay on-site and submit insurance claims as appropriate after your return. Please review the brochure you received in your Road Scholar enrollment confirmation notice for complete details of the plan's benefits, coverages, terms and conditions.

Participant Information Form

To participate in your Road Scholar program, you are required to complete the Participant Information Form, either online or the print version that may be included in this packet. You must answer all questions and give complete information on your health history when you fill out the form. If you choose to complete the printed version, please return your Participant Information Form to **Road Scholar, 3160 Telegraph Rd., Suite 100, Ventura, CA 93003-3248** as soon as possible, but no later than **3 weeks** prior to departure. IT IS MANDATORY THAT YOU COMPLETE, SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. The information on this form will be shared with the program staff at each site you will attend. The information you furnish will be crucial in the event of an emergency.

Medical and Physical Needs

Road Scholar is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in our programs. If you have any impairments or medical needs requiring accommodation that you did not inform us of at the time of enrollment, we ask that you communicate your needs to Road Scholar's Participant Services team at this time. Please contact us by calling toll free at (877) 426-8056.

Smoking

The great majority of Road Scholar participants are non-smokers. We try to minimize the effects of smoking during road Scholar programs and we try to ensure that smokers and nonsmokers are not assigned as roommates. In the event that there is no other option than to assign a nonsmoker and a smoker as roommates, the smoker is asked not to smoke in the room. For the benefit of everyone, smoking is prohibited in classrooms and on buses or other conveyances. Group leaders, drivers, and other staff are expected to observe nonsmoking areas established during the program. Some hotels and restaurants have smoking areas designated, but most are smoke-free.

MONEY MATTERS

All of your Road Scholar program components are included in the program cost (except for meals designated as on-your-own). It is your responsibility to pay for all other expenses you may incur during your time. You should have sufficient funds available for any purchases you wish to make and for unforeseen events such as accidents or illness, losing luggage or personal effects, etc. For the most comfortable and enjoyable experience, please plan accordingly. Neither the Group Leader nor other program staff is authorized to make cash outlays to participants.

Tipping

Faculty and staff connected with the Road Scholar program are compensated for their services and modest gratuities for program-related staff are included in the cost of the Road Scholar program. Therefore, we discourage organized tipping in any form. Not all participants share the desire to pay additional gratuities, and many feel pressured and uncomfortable if approached by other participants to contribute to a group gift, no matter how well-meaning. Moreover, Group Leaders, local coordinators, lecturers, and bus drivers are not permitted to request tips or take up collections for tips even if asked to do so by members of the group. We understand that some people want to give additional rewards for outstanding service and cannot preclude anyone from doing so. But if you wish to tip, we ask that you keep it on a private, individual basis. While on your own at any time outside of the program schedule, you should be guided by local customs.

TIME

Pacific Standard

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

Historical Weather Data for Ventura

Average Temperature

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
°F	51	53	55	59	62	67	73	73	70	64	58	52

Average High Temperature

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
°F	67	68	70	74	77	83	91	91	89	82	75	68

Average Low Temperature

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
°F	36	38	40	43	47	50	55	54	52	47	40	36

Average Precipitation

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
in.	5.00	5.00	3.50	1.40	0.40	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.70	1.80	3.20

CLOTHING AND PACKING SUGGESTIONS

Suitable attire for this program is layered 'California casual' for both day and evening activities. There are no events which require dressy clothing.

How do I travel light?

Travel is much more enjoyable if you aren't burdened with heavy and large pieces of luggage. In order to "travel light," you should plan to:

- Do a small amount of hand-laundry every few days
- Take clothing from one or two color-groups
- Dress like an "onion" (in layers) according to the weather
- Do without some of the electrical appliances and conveniences that you use at home

What should I wear?

- Comfort is of the essence! You will seldom need anything dressy; if you want to bring a "casual dressy" outfit such as khakis and shirt or polo top, a pantsuit or simple skirt and blouse, that's fine.
- Shoes should be comfortable enough to wear all day. We advise well-worn and sturdy shoes with good tread (rubber soles are best) and socks. In the warmer months, sandals are fine for some areas, but you should bring a heavier shoe if we're doing a lot of walking.
- Bring a hat suitable for the season, gloves for winter wear, clothing you can layer as morning and evening temperatures are cooler than midday.

Toiletries and Personal Items:

- Personal medication (we advise you to carry these with you as you travel, so in the case of lost luggage, you'll have your prescriptions with you.)
- Lightweight folding umbrella
- Your favorite camera
- Small flashlight
- Limit jewelry items to a few favorites; leave your valuable pieces at home!
- A mini-sewing kit and a few safety pins
- Note pad and writing pens
- Sunglasses and SUNSCREEN (important at higher altitudes!)
- Small quantity of laundry detergent if you'll be washing clothing by hand
- Any foods you might need to supplement a special diet

Additional suggestions specific to your program:

We advise you to bring layers of comfortable, casual clothes for changeable weather conditions and temperatures.

Bring comfortable walking shoes with closed-toes for walking through orchards and fields on field trips. We also suggest a refillable water bottle as we do not supply bottled water on field trips. We recommend bringing a clip-on reading light to augment the hotel room lighting for those who like to read at night and a plug-in night light that aids in safely navigating your hotel room after the lights are out. Bring appropriate clothing if you wish to use the hotel outdoor heated pool or exercise facility and rain gear for programs held November-April. The Crowne Plaza offers a coin-operated laundromat on the premises as well as dry cleaning services.

CARRYING YOUR BAGGAGE

In most instances, you are required to handle your own luggage, although many hotels have portage available at additional expense to you. We urge you not to bring more baggage than you are capable of carrying comfortably yourself. While we have no luggage requirements other than those imposed by airlines or other public conveyance systems, we suggest you not burden yourself by bringing heavy, bulky bags that you must handle on your own.

MEALS

It is an integral part of your program experience to learn about and try the local cuisine. Therefore, although the staff at the sites is aware of many of the more recent dietary concerns relating to cholesterol, salt and sugar, we do not ask them to radically adapt their menus to suit our needs, nor do we expect them to prepare food for individual diets. We do offer vegetarian options on almost all our programs. A classic vegetarian diet is defined as one with vegetables, fruits, grains, beans and nuts, but no fish, meat or poultry.

PREPARATION

How can I get the most out of my program?

Meals and accommodations may be quite different from what you are used to at home. Accepting and dealing positively with such differences will greatly enhance your appreciation of the experience. In this mailing, we touch on some of the differences you may encounter. There will be experiences, situations and customs quite different from what you expect and anticipate at this time. The best way to prepare for the differences is to prepare yourself mentally. Keep in mind that one purpose of travel is to experience differences, not to judge them. Skills that will serve you well are:

- Tolerance for Ambiguity
- Ability to be Non-Judgmental
- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Sense of Humor
- Open-Mindedness
- Curiosity
- Self-Reliance
- Communicativeness

PHOTOGRAPHY

As described in our registration and program policies published in our catalogs, Road Scholar reserves the right to use photographs or videos taken by representatives of Road Scholar or by other participants during programs for promotional purposes. If you prefer that your image not be used in Road Scholar catalogs or promotional materials, including our website, we ask that you notify program staff and the photographer at the start of the program.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Honest and objective feedback from participants is essential to maintaining our high standards, and program evaluations are our primary tool for monitoring and improving our program quality. Accordingly, at the conclusion of each program we send every participant a comprehensive evaluation form, either by mail or email, so that it is waiting for them upon their return home. Completed evaluations are carefully reviewed by Road Scholar headquarters and the on-site Program Provider. Though evaluation results are shared with the Program Provider, responses are kept anonymous and participant names are not associated with their evaluation. Our mission is to delight each and every participant, and we depend on your feedback to make this possible. We no longer ask participants to fill out evaluations on-site so it is more important than ever to keep us informed. Thank you in advance for your help.

SUGGESTED READING AND RESOURCES

Living Legacy The Story of Ventura County Agriculture, John Krist

Follow the seasons, from the clutches of winter through the gentle awakening of spring and into the lush growth of summer. Pause in fall to linger over the history of farming in Ventura County and enjoy the harvest bounty. *Living Legacy: The Story of Ventura County Agriculture*, by award-winning journalist and Ventura County Farm Bureau executive director John Krist, is at once a history, a photo essay and a lesson in modern farming.

PRIVATE GROUP CHARTERS

Looking for a fun, enriching and bonding experience for your group?

Private Group Charter Programs allow a group to reserve a Road Scholar program just for its members. It's an ideal way to bring a community together - for reunions, annual gatherings or special occasions.

Road Scholar Private Group Charters are perfect for ...

- Family reunions • Biking, hiking or walking clubs • Birding clubs • Church and temple groups • Alumni groups • Lifelong Learning Institutes • Affinity groups of all kinds

To learn more visit **www.roadscholar.org/charter**, call toll free at (877) 209-4634 or email us at charterprograms@roadscholar.org.

CHECK OUT THE ROAD SCHOLAR ONLINE STORE

You'll find Road Scholar hats, shirts and lots of travel accessories at our online store. Just visit **www.roadscholar.org/store**.

EXTENDING YOUR ADVENTURE

Add to your learning adventure and save on travel costs by attending another Road Scholar program nearby and around the same time. Here are our suggestions, but you can always call and speak to an Advisor to learn about more options:

California

The R.M.S. Queen Mary and Catalina Island

Welcome Aboard the Queen Mary! During 31 years at sea and 1,001 transatlantic crossings, this ship transported the rich and famous across the North Atlantic and now this is your chance to experience an era of opulence as you stay aboard one of the original luxury ocean liners. Relive the ship's history from construction and launch to passenger service and troopship through ship's officer talks and expert-led walk. Get acquainted with Catalina Island and its seaside village of Avalon.

Program Number: 1180, Prices starting at \$989 per person

Program Dates: 03/23/2014 - 03/28/2014

84 miles

California

Signature City Los Angeles

Experience L.A.'s diverse cultural and geographic regions during five days of discovery. Touch the Hollywood stardust on visits to the Walk of Fame and Sony Pictures Studio. Explore L.A.'s multicultural treasures and monumental architecture, crowned by the Walt Disney Concert Hall and an evening performance. Discover the secrets of the La Brea Tar Pits and the opulence of Beverly Hills and Rodeo Drive. Marvel at the beauty of Malibu and walk the picturesque streets of Santa Monica.

Program Number: 16962, Prices starting at \$1,249 per person

Program Dates: 04/06/2014 - 04/11/2014

65 miles

THE ROAD SCHOLAR MISSION

Not-for-profit Road Scholar inspires adults to learn, discover, and travel. Our learning adventures engage expert instructors, provide extraordinary access, and stimulate discourse and friendship among people for whom learning is the adventure of a lifetime.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Road Scholar values diversity as a dynamic and integral part of a thriving educational community. We strive to embody the rich diversity of our society and welcome all adults to experience the adventure of lifelong learning with us.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Our educational adventures are made possible by donors like you. Support lifelong learning at www.roadscholar.org/support.

Crowne Plaza Hotel ★

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