



Da Vinci Tree Academy Narrative

For the 2022 Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI) field trip, Da Vinci Tree Academy will have two chaperones and two bus drivers who will be going on the trip with our 32 students. The two chaperones are Mr. Roll and Ms. Hanson. The bus drivers are licensed and bonded professionals who work for our motor-coach provider, Mountain View Tours.

At Da Vinci Tree before we leave, all bags must be identified by tying a colored ribbon on them (this year's color TBD). The ribbon will be provided, do not purchase your own ribbon. The bags tagged with the ribbon include:

1. Day packs (with water bottles, inhalers, snacks, etc.)
2. Packed bags (with clothes, toothbrushes, deodorant etc.)
3. Sleeping bags

Students are limited to bringing these three large items. The colored ribbon is how we will identify that the bag belongs with our group. Once all the bags are marked, students will also have to sort through their bags to make sure that all items students need in the stagecoach during the night drive are located in their day packs. Packed bags will be stowed in the lower deck storage compartment and will not be accessible from inside the cabin. We will not be unloading the packed bags mid-trip.

The drivers will drive us throughout the night, switching mid-trip. They will drop us off at the port in Long Beach. They will then wait on the mainland and pick us up on the way back. We will be stopping at two locations, one for a late dinner and one for breakfast (time permitting). Other stops will be taken as necessary for bathroom breaks, although there is a bathroom on the motor-coach.

At the port of Long Beach, all students will have to change into close-toed shoes before boarding the boat. Any sandals or flip-flops will have to be stowed in luggage at this time. The boarding process usually takes about 45 minutes. This is to make sure all the students and bags are in the right places. Students are responsible for making sure that their three items and any pillows have been successfully unloaded off of the motor-coach. Students are then responsible for bringing their items onto the boat.

Once we arrive at the dock in Fox Landing, each student is required to grab three items that belong to our group and bring them onshore. For the sake of time, students do not grab their own items, but just any three items that have our school's colored ribbon. Once on the shore, everyone sorts through the bags to claim their belongings.



Narrative (Continued)

Typically once we arrive there is a short introduction with our instructors, an orientation, and a tour. Lunch will be prepared and waiting for us in the cafeteria.

Tent assignments will have already been made, and students will be able to unpack their bags with their bunkmates for about an hour. During this hour, students will turn in any snacks or medications to Mr. Roll and Ms. Hanson for proper storage. The wild foxes on the island have a habit of destroying bags (and even tents) to get to both food and medication. Please, **DO NOT HIDE SNACKS OR MEDICINE**. On our last trip, one of the adult chaperones broke the rule and hid some medicines and candy in her duffle bag. While we were in a lab session foxes destroyed her things.

Once we are situated, the Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI) program will begin. The CIMI program will include: snorkeling, a squid dissection, ocean kayaking, ocean labs, and a night snorkel.

On Friday when the program concludes, students will have an hour to pack their things. Sack lunches will be packed for the kids to be unloaded and eaten on the ferry ride back to the mainland. Students will again load their pillows, sleeping bags, and packed bags onto the ferry in our designated space.

We will be arriving back at the port between 2:30 and 3:30 on Friday and will make our way back. On the way back, the same rules apply. Students must have anything they need in their day packs and packed bags will be stowed until we arrive home. We will be making one stop for dinner. We are expected to arrive back at Da Vinci Tree Academy between 9PM and 2AM depending on traffic.

Trip Seating Priority, "Bumping," & Alternates

It is important for all of our families to understand that hosting this trip is an incredibly complicated work of coordination between schedules and supply chains. Accordingly, CIMI can accommodate two chaperones and only 32 of our students this year. To be as fair as possible, we grant first priority to 8th grade students as they will not be at Da Vinci Tree next year and will not have another chance to attend. Second priority goes to 7th graders, and final priority goes to 6th.

As a result, it is very possible that a student in either 7th or 6th grade could be "bumped" from the trip this year. Any student who has paid for the trip that gets bumped this year has first priority on next year's trip. Additionally, any funds they've paid this year will roll over to cover next year's trip. Unfortunately, as a result of CIMI and Mountain View's deposit rules, we will not be refunding any money paid in for the trip, only crediting it towards future years.

In terms of seating priority for students in the same grade, we work on "first come, first served."



Trip Seating Priority, "Bumping," & Alternates (cont.)

Finally, emergencies and accidents happen. It is important that we have at least one or two people ready to go as "alternates." This makes sure that we can utilize all 32 slots.

We ask that out of courtesy to the students in our younger grades, our 8th graders get their permission slips for CIMI in quickly. This way, we know how many seats are open for 7th and 6th graders. 7th and 6th graders should be motivated to turn in their permission slips early since they are seated and prioritized by "first come, first served."

Inclement Weather Warning

In the very rare event that ocean waves reach more than three meters, the ferry to and from the mainland will not operate. In this very unlikely contingency, our students would likely get a free day stay on the island. I have been taking students to Catalina Island since 2009 and have only encountered this issue twice. It is important that this eventuality is communicated to you as the changing climate is making the short voyage less predictable than it has been in the past.

Trip/Island Communication

While we are on the island, we will not be immediately reachable via phone or internet. Students are not allowed to have any electronic devices on them, and cell connectivity is spotty. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the school's cell phone at 520-441-0137.

In the event of an emergency at home, we typically **do not** tell the student about the emergency until we arrive back in Tucson. Since we are on an island off of the coast of the mainland, unless there is a life and death emergency that would lead a family to pursue a costly air evacuation of their child to come back to Tucson, there is usually no reason for the student to know at that moment. This is to keep the student from worrying about something that they can not change.

We will be putting together a mailing list for electronic trip updates. We will be updating parents via email when we: 1.) Arrive at the port, 2.) Arrive on the island (if cell signal allows), 3.) Arrive back at the port, and 4.) When we are within 2-4 hours of arriving home. The last email is so that parents will know when to come and pick up the kids from the school.



Route/Itinerary Information

We will be departing the school around 7:30 PM and will be taking the following route to Long Beach, CA barring any unusual traffic patterns (such as a car accident, detour, etc).

7 h 10 min - 8 h 50 min
(504 miles)
via I-10 W

Da Vinci Tree Academy
8055 E 22nd St, Tucson, AZ 85710

- > Get on I-10 W
21 min (9.6 mi)
- > Follow I-10 W and CA-91 W to S Harbor Scenic Dr/I-710 Spur in Long Beach. Take exit 1A from I-710 S
7 h 16 min (492 mi)
- > Continue on S Harbor Scenic Dr/I-710 Spur to your destination
9 min (2.0 mi)

1046 Queens Hwy
Long Beach, CA 90802

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

We will be stopping in Phoenix for a late dinner/snack around 10 pm. Students will be given 40 minutes to eat, then pack up again. We will be making stops along the way for fuel and bathroom breaks as necessary.

If all goes well, we should have enough time to stop for a short breakfast before heading to the port. We typically decide on where to go based on what's open and what the kids feel like.

We will arrive at Catalina Classic Cruises around 6:30 AM. The pier that we will be departing from is next to the Queen Mary Hotel. Once we arrive, we will wait an hour or two before our party is set to begin boarding the ferry.

