



2008 natural history excursions

Oregon Trips

Klamath Birding Weekend

March 7 - 10, 2008 Price \$700 Limit 8

Observe hundreds of bald eagles in their wintering habitat in the Klamath Basin, one of the country's greatest wetlands, with naturalist and expert birder, Eric Horvath. The basin's marshes, meadows, open water, sagebrush steppe, juniper woodlands and coniferous forests also provide habitat for golden eagles, prairie falcons, and spectacular concentrations of waterfowl including snow geese, Ross' geese, greater white-fronted geese and thousands of ducks. Learn about the area's history and what the Conservancy is doing to improve this biodiversity hot spot. (\$100)

Birding Oregon's Desert Wildlands

May 17 - 23, 2008 Price \$1,700 Limit 9

Experience Oregon's best spring birding with naturalist Eric Horvath on this comprehensive desert wildlands tour. Witness spring migration at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, one of our state's great wildlife spectacles. Discover two Nature Conservancy preserves: Borax Lake, set against the massive scarp of Steens Mountain – the largest fault block in the United States – and the 30,000-acre Sycan Marsh Preserve, a vast mountain wetland. Search for ancient petroglyphs, and see one of only three Oregon nesting sites for white pelicans in the Warner Basin wetlands. Walk amidst sagebrush and wildflower-covered slopes, and keep an eye out for one of North America's largest herd of pronghorn at the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. (\$300)



▲ White pelicans

Hells Canyon Country: Wildlife and Landscapes

May 22 - 26, 2008 Price \$1,295 Limit 14

Explore two of North America's most unique and wild landscapes: Hells Canyon, the deepest canyon on the continent, and Zumwalt Prairie, one of North America's largest remaining native grasslands. Enjoy dazzling wildflower displays, and observe an astounding concentration of nesting raptors. Drink in spectacular canyon vistas, and learn about the Nez Perce, the original inhabitants of this spectacular landscape. Watch elk, deer, bighorn sheep – and ranchers at work – in this rugged habitat. Expert naturalists will

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Cruises

FEATURE TRIP



▲ Snorkeling is one of many unforgettable experiences offered during our first-ever South Sea cruise.

Whale Expedition

April 27 - May 4, 2008 Price from \$1,900 Limit 14

Experience the awesome thrill of seeing blue whales, the largest living creature on earth, in Baja's Sea of Cortez. Along the way, encounter schools of dolphins and up to six other species of whale including humpback, sperm, finback, minke, pilot and orca. Enjoy daily land excursions to remote desert islands harboring Galapagos-like diversity. Watch blue-footed boobies and red-billed tropic birds nesting or feeding in the mangrove-lined estuaries, and snorkel with brilliantly colored fish along rocky shorelines. Join Baja Expeditions for this incredible trip aboard their comfortable, 80-foot motor vessel, *Don Jose*.

Great Bear Rainforest

August 29 - September 5, 2008 Price \$3,483 Limit 15

Journey to the largest remaining intact temperate rainforest on Earth – Canada's Great Bear Rainforest – encompassing 21 million acres of green, primeval forest along British Columbia's central coast. Search for the rare and elusive, white Spirit Bear as you explore remote islands and inlets on watch for humpback whales, grizzly bears fishing for salmon in the estuaries, and a unique coastal sub-species of gray wolf. Local native Gitga'at guides will share their knowledge, and you will travel in safety and comfort aboard Bluewater Adventure's 68-foot *Island Roamer*.

South Sea Odyssey

September 27 - October 13, 2008

Price from \$9,380 Limit 20

Voyage from Tahiti to the remote Cook Island atolls, the traditional kingdom of Tonga and the culturally-rich islands of Fiji. Experience a spectrum of



▲ Green sea turtle

spell-binding attributes as you explore some of the world's most remote islands in the idyllic South Pacific. Stroll pristine, white sand beaches, snorkel amidst schools of tropical fish in warm, azure lagoons, and hike rainforest-carpeted volcanoes in search of brilliant birds. Visit Bora Bora, Niue Island and the dazzling emerald maze of Tonga's outer islands – as well as Wallis and Futuna, highlights that few travelers ever experience. Enjoy the hospitable traditions of the Polynesian people and the company of expert naturalists and historians from Zegrahm Expeditions as you travel in style aboard their 110-passenger *Clipper Odyssey*.

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Rafting the Northwest

Rafting the Magnificent Owyhee River

April 27 - May 1, 2008 Price \$1,175 Limit 14

Discover steep, rugged canyons, painted rock minarets, desert vistas framed by blooming wildflowers, soaring raptors and singing canyon wrens on the magnificent Owyhee, one of America's wildest remaining rivers. With over a hundred river-miles under official protection, the Owyhee provides an unusually pristine wilderness experience. Join Ouzel Outfitters for this amazing journey composed of quiet floating as well as exciting whitewater rapids. Few rivers can match the Owyhee for scenery, wildlife, geology or remoteness.



© Jason Seivers/TNC

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Rafting the Marsh Fork/Canning River

June 21 - July 2, 2008 Price \$4,400 Limit 7

Explore "America's Serengeti," the 19-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Search for grizzly bears, wolves, awe-inspiring herds of migrating caribou, and arctic birds in full breeding plumage that travel thousands of miles to nest here. This 12-day raft trip floats north on the Marsh Fork through the mountains of the Brooks Range to the Canning River, then through the foothills and across the coastal plain. Days alternate between rafting and camping with opportunities for hiking and fishing. Join experienced leaders from Wilderness Birding Adventures who give special attention to safety, comfort and a spirit of adventure. (\$300)

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Rafting Oregon's Grande Ronde River

June 25 - 29, 2008 Price \$990 Limit 12

NEW Paddle 39 miles of the beautiful Grande Ronde River deep in the heart of northeast Oregon on this ideal family summer adventure. Amidst gorgeous volcanic canyons and forested, grassy slopes, keep an eye out for local wildlife such as bighorn sheep, black bears, elk, deer and bald eagles. Ample fishing opportunities for rainbow trout and smallmouth bass are also available for your enjoyment. This exciting trip is led by fun and experienced local guides from Winding Waters River Expeditions.

Rafting the Wild and Scenic Rogue River: A Camping Trip

August 9 - 12, 2008 Price \$899 Limit 21

One of the first designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Rogue is the premier whitewater rafting river of the West Coast. Abundant wildlife, slippery rock slides, steep canyon walls and exciting rapids make this a spectacular adventure. Osprey, spotted sandpipers, ravens, black bears, deer and river otters are likely wildlife sightings in these diverse habitats. The Rogue was one of the original twelve rivers protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Enjoy camping on its magical banks throughout this four-day adventure with Ouzel Outfitters.

Oregon Trips

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accompany you to unravel the remarkable stories of this landscape. The Nature Conservancy is proud to offer this unique trip in partnership with Wallowa Resources.



© Jason Seivers/TNC

▲ Hiking northeast Oregon's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve

Llama Trekking through Oregon's Wallowa Mountains

August 13 - 19, 2008 Price \$1,395 Limit 9

Enjoy spectacular alpine landscapes and stunning, unspoiled vistas as you trek through Oregon's largest protected area, the Eagle Cap Wilderness, in the heart of the rugged Wallowa Mountains. In this remote, northeastern corner of the state, sometimes called "Oregon's Alps," mountain goats wander below granite peaks rising to nearly 10,000 feet. Well-cared-for llamas carry gear while you hike at ease through glacier-carved valleys and high mountain meadows, past pristine lakes and sparkling streams. Dine on delicious backcountry cuisine, and camp beneath the stars as experienced leaders from Wallowa Llamas guide you across this amazing terrain.

Trips beyond Oregon

The Pantanal: Earth's Greatest Wetland

April 19 - 28, 2008 Price \$3,598 Limit 15

NEW Discover Brazil's Pantanal, Earth's largest wetland, as you explore a wilderness of tranquil, pristine marshes, rivers and lakes, lush gallery forests, and expansive savannas punctuated by tropical palms. See giant anteaters, marsh deer, giant river otters, tapirs and, perhaps, the elusive jaguar. Watch for toucans, rheas, jabiru storks, and more than a dozen species of colorful parrots including the endangered hyacinth macaw. Witness the raw power and beauty of Iguazú Falls, South America's most spectacular waterfall. Join International Expeditions on this incredible adventure.

Alaska's Walrus Islands

July 5 - 9, 2008 Price \$2,950 Limit 8

NEW Discover Alaska's wildlife-rich Walrus Islands, a sanctuary of seven splendid, Bristol Bay isles known worldwide for their large summer concentrations of walrus. Enjoy camping and day hiking in nearly 24 hours of daylight on Round Island, the best known of the group, where up to 14,000 walrus have been counted in a single day. Other marine mammals often seen include Steller sea lions and gray, humpback and orca whales. Bejeweled with wildflowers in July, Round Island is also home to 250,000 seabirds including horned and tufted puffins, common murrelets, parakeet auklets, and black-legged kittiwakes nesting in cliffside rookeries. Experienced leaders from Wilderness Birding Adventures guide you on this spectacular journey. (\$250)



© Alaska Department of Fish & Game

▲ Walrus on Round Island

Peru: Macaws and Machu Picchu

September 27 - October 12, 2008 Price \$4,495 Limit 12

NEW Venture into the heart of South America's greatest ancient civilization, the Inca, and explore the world's quintessential wilderness, the Amazon rainforest. From Humboldt penguins on

wildlife-rich islands off the West Coast, to hundreds of macaws and parrots gathering daily at the world's largest-known clay lick in the Amazon, you will encounter a plethora of bird species each day. Along the way, explore the mysteries of the sacred citadel at Machu Picchu and other Incan ruins,



© Carolyn Chatterton

▲ Blue and yellow macaws

and see many colorful hummingbirds and tanagers. From the Andean highlands, travel deep into the Amazonian lowlands and safely stay in comfortable jungle lodges – including the Tambopata Research Center where you may see giant river otters, capybaras, caimans, tapirs, numerous species of monkeys and, with luck, the rare harpy eagle. Join naturalist and expert birder Eric Horvath for this unforgettable trip through Peru. (\$500)

About Our Naturalists and Guides

Pioneers of adventure travel in Baja California, Mexico, **Baja Expeditions, Inc.** has been offering a variety of eco-expeditions for over 25 years. Working with local people to set a warm tone for your travel, accommodating staff take care of all daily details and provide a truly catered whale expedition.



BAJA • EXPEDITIONS

One of British Columbia's original eco-tour companies, **Bluewater Adventures** has been operating small group excursions to Canada's coastal wilderness since 1974. Focused on learning, experiencing and enjoying wildlife and native culture, their experienced staff will help make your Great Bear Rainforest cruise unforgettable.



Having conducted extensive ornithological research, **Eric Horvath's** birding experience has given him exceptional abilities to identify birds by their songs and calls. Eric's zoology degree and his interests in botany and geology combine to make your Klamath Basin, desert wildlands and Peru trips memorable birding experiences.



Ranked one of *Travel & Leisure's* 2005 Best Tour Operators, **International Expeditions** strives to stimulate interest in, and create an appreciation for,



the natural wonders of the world. For more than 25 years, they have been traveling to stunning locales and natural history destinations, including this year's spectacular South American expedition to Brazil's Pantanal.

Ouzel Outfitters has offered premier wilderness vacations on Northwest rivers for over two decades. Dedicated to the Conservancy's mission of biodiversity preservation, the company continually strives to protect places visited. Experience Ouzel Outfitters' professionalism, attention to safety and dedication to customer service while you ride the magnificent Owyhee and Rogue rivers.



For more than two decades, **Wallowa Llamas** has conducted small, guided tours into Oregon's largest wilderness area, the Eagle Cap. Dedicated staff work together to provide an enjoyable and educational outdoor experience while having a minimal impact on the area's fragile alpine environment.



Since 1996, nonprofit organization **Wallowa Resources** has worked to blend the ecological needs of the land with the economic needs of the community to preserve Wallowa County's heritage of making a living from the land.



Motivated by the natural world's endless possibilities, **Wilderness Birding Adventures** has been dedicated to the exploration, conservation and sharing of Alaska's profoundly rich environment since 1986. Founding husband and wife owners Bob Ditrack and Lisa Moorehead direct knowledgeable and skilled guides to provide deeply rewarding, safe and fun exploration of the amazing Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Walrus Islands in Alaska.



Based in Joseph, Oregon, **Winding Waters River Expeditions** was created out of a passion for running rivers and exploring the natural world. With an "Experience the Adventure" philosophy, skilled river guides ensure your Grande Ronde River rafting trip will be a remarkable journey.



Winding Waters
RIVER EXPEDITIONS
JOSEPH, OREGON

Zegrahm Expeditions specializes in expert-led excursions to remote locations around the world. Aboard a variety of vessels including icebreakers, specially-designed expedition ships and elegant sailing yachts, their unique, small group voyages are led by seasoned experts and feature renowned lecturers. Come aboard for an awe-inspiring South Sea cruise from Tahiti to Fiji.



Please send me more information on the following natural history excursions in 2008:

Oregon Trips:

- Klamath Birding Weekend March 7 - 10
- Birding Oregon's Desert Wildlands May 17 - 23
- Hells Canyon Country: Wildlife and Landscapes May 22 - 26
- Llama Trekking through Oregon's Wallowa Mountains August 13 - 19

Cruises:

- Whale Expedition April 27 - May 4
- Great Bear Rainforest August 29 - September 5
- South Sea Odyssey September 27 - October 13

Trips Beyond Oregon:

- The Pantanal: Earth's Greatest Wetland April 19 - 28
- Alaska's Walrus Islands July 5 - 9
- Peru: Macaws and Machu Picchu September 27 - October 12

Rafting the Northwest:

- Rafting the Magnificent Owyhee River April 27 - May 1
- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Rafting the Marsh Fork/Canning River June 21 - July 2
- Rafting Oregon's Grande Ronde River June 25 - 29
- Rafting the Wild and Scenic Rogue River: A Camping Trip August 9 - 12

If your name and address are listed correctly on the reverse side, there is no need to repeat them here. However, please include a phone number in case we need to call you.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
*E-mail: _____

** Providing your e-mail address will, at your request, allow The Nature Conservancy to send detailed, electronic trip itineraries for any excursion of interest. Itineraries are also available from our Web site, nature.org/travel.*



2008 natural history excursions

Dear Friends and Fellow Travelers,

I am happy to present you with this exciting list of natural history excursions for 2008! The Nature Conservancy in Oregon has been creating remarkable, nature-based experiences for our members since the late 1980s, and we are excited to continue this tradition.



▲ Jason Seivers, field trip program manager, at the ancient Incan ruins of Peru's Machu Picchu

We are thrilled to offer several new trips this year, including a Peruvian adventure to explore the ancient Incan ruins of Machu Picchu, and to search for birds in the heart of Earth's quintessential wilderness – the Amazon rainforest; a once-in-a-lifetime South Pacific voyage through white sand beaches and blue lagoons, from Tahiti to Fiji; and, an incredible journey to South America's answer to Africa's abundant wildlife – the great wetlands of Brazil's Pantanal – where tapirs, giant anteaters, macaws and caimans are your companions. Or, if you prefer more northerly climes, there's a mid-summer expedition to Alaska's wildlife-rich Walrus Islands, where over 14,000 walrus have been counted basking on the shores. And, for a perfect family adventure in your own backyard, we're offering our first-ever rafting trip down northeast Oregon's Grande Ronde River.

Popular demand brings the return of several of our most requested trips. Escape winter's chill during a whale expedition along the coast of southern Baja. Visit America's greatest unspoiled wilderness on a rafting trip through Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Enjoy white-water excitement on Oregon's Owyhee or Rogue rivers. Explore The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie Preserve on a trip through the high country of Hells Canyon, or – if you prefer four-legged walking partners – come llama trekking amidst the Wallowa Mountains' alpine beauty.

In addition, you'll find two wonderful opportunities to enjoy birding – along the Pacific Flyway in the Klamath Basin and across Oregon's desert wildlands. Or, voyage to Canada's Great Bear Rainforest along the coast of British Columbia in search of the rare Spirit Bear.

Our mission is to provide Conservancy members and their friends with educational vacations that inspire a commitment to conservation by allowing participants to re-connect with the natural world and re-ignite their love of nature. It is our hope that, through these trips, your knowledge of the diversity of life will grow and, accordingly, your dedication to preserving it will strengthen. All our trips are led by experienced naturalists and outfitters who consistently receive rave reviews. The costs listed for some trips includes a suggested, tax-deductible contribution to The Nature Conservancy to help protect the diversity of life you enjoy in Oregon and the places we visit.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 503 436-2022, or send an e-mail to excursions@tnc.org. You may also visit our Web site, nature.org/travel, to view and download detailed trip brochures. I hope you will be able to join us for an adventure in 2008!

Jason A. Seivers
Jason A. Seivers, field trip program manager



© Charlie Boyd / International Expeditions

▲ Iguazú Falls, straddling Brazil and Argentina, is one of the world's largest and most powerful waterfalls. The falls is one of many incredible places visited during our wetlands tour of South America's Pantanal.



© Winding Waters River Expeditions

▲ Taking a break after rafting the beautiful Grande Ronde River in the heart of northeastern Oregon

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



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