



# 2009 natural history excursions

## Oregon Trips

### Klamath Birding Weekend

March 6 - 9, 2009 Price \$750 Limit 8

April 24 - 27, 2009 Price \$750 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 eagle, prairie falcon, 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)

### Hells Canyon Country: Wildlife and Landscapes

June 3 - 7, 2009 Price \$1,295 Limit 10

Explore two of North America's most unique and wild landscapes: Hells Canyon, the continent's deepest canyon, 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 landscape's original inhabitants. Watch elk, deer, bighorn sheep—and ranchers at work—in this rugged habitat. Expert naturalists will 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.

### Crater Lake: Birds and Natural History

July 10 - 13, 2009 Price \$1,145 Limit 10

Explore the ornithology, geology and botany of Crater Lake National Park with naturalist Eric Horvath. Look for regional bird specialties such as Clark's nutcracker, gray-crowned rosy finch and white-headed woodpecker (right). Enjoy a diversity of alpine wildflowers, and investigate the cataclysmic history of the caldera which holds one of the nation's deepest and clearest lakes. We will also visit the Conservancy's nearby 7,440-acre Williamson River Delta Preserve. Lodging is at the historic Crater Lake Lodge on the rim. (\$150)



© Dave Menke/USFWS

(continued on page 2)

## Cruises

### FEATURE TRIP



© Jack S. Grove

▲ Grizzly bear are among several wildlife viewing opportunities offered during our new Bering Sea cruise.



### Wild Alaska:

#### Aleutians, Pribilofs, St. Lawrence, Katmai and the Bering Sea

July 6 - 20, 2009 Price from \$9,980 Limit 20

Cruise the wild islands and coastlines of the Bering Sea, witness first-hand their wealth of North Pacific wildlife—including seabirds, walrus, sea otter (top), Arctic fox and bear—and ceremoniously cross the Arctic Circle. Explore the remote Aleutian and Pribilof islands, and watch for bear along the hidden bays of Katmai National Park. Step ashore in Kodiak, the first capital of Russia's North American colonies and, on St. Lawrence Island, be the welcome guests of a Siberian Yupik community. Impressive landscapes—from pristine coves and beaches to expansive tundra and soaring mountains—serve as photogenic backdrops to this remarkable adventure. Join outstanding naturalists and staff from Zegrahm Expeditions for this incredible Alaska experience.

### Sea of Cortez Wildlife Cruise

March 22 - 29, 2009 Price from \$1,900 Limit 14

Enjoy the awesome thrill of seeing blue whale, Earth's largest living creature, in Baja's Sea of Cortez. Along the way, encounter schools of dolphin and up to six other species of whale including humpback, sperm, finback, minke, pilot and orca. Experience 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, the *Don Jose*.

### Great Bear Rainforest

August 27 - September 3, 2009 Price \$3,995 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 (right) as you explore remote islands and inlets on watch for humpback whale, grizzly bear fishing for salmon, 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 Adventures' 68-foot *Island Roamer*.



© Stan Lockwood

(continued on page 2)

\* Pricing may include a suggested, tax-deductible donation to The Nature Conservancy. When applicable, the amount is listed in parentheses at the end of the trip's description.

## Rafting the Northwest

### Rafting the Magnificent Owyhee River

April 27 - May 1, 2009 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.



© Ouzel Outfitters

### Rafting the John Day: Oregon's Longest Free-Flowing River

June 8 - 12, 2009 Price \$969 Limit 12

Journey into one of Oregon's most scenic river canyons, and enjoy the relaxed pace of a free-flowing river with few rapids, stunning scenery, interesting geology and rich natural history. Federally protected as a Wild and Scenic River, the John Day is Oregon's longest undammed waterway. We travel 71 miles in five days, exploring Indian petroglyphs, historic homesteads and towering rock formations. Bird watching is exceptional and fishing for smallmouth bass can be extremely rewarding. Enjoy gourmet meals, comfortable riverside camping and in-depth interpretation on this five-day river journey with Ouzel Outfitters.

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

June 22 - July 3, 2009 Price \$4,600 Limit 7

Explore "America's Serengeti," the 19-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Search for grizzly bear, wolf, awe-inspiring herds of migrating caribou, and arctic birds in full breeding plumage that travel thousands of miles to nest here. This 12-day 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)

### Rafting the Wild and Scenic Rogue River: A Camping Trip

July 18 - 21, 2009 Price \$919 Limit 21

One of the original rivers protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 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 sandpiper, raven, black bear, deer and river otter are likely wildlife sightings in these diverse habitats. Enjoy camping on the Rogue's magical banks throughout this four-day adventure with Ouzel Outfitters.

## Oregon Trips (continued from page 1)

### Llama Trekking through Oregon's Willowa Mountains

August 13 - 18, 2009 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 Willowa 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 Willowa Llamas guide you across this amazing terrain.

## Cruises (continued from page 1)

### West Coast of South America

October 14 - November 2, 2009

Price \$9,980 Limit 19

Sail South America's western coast, where natural and cultural wonders define the coastlines of Ecuador, Peru and Chile. Follow the Humboldt Current aboard the *Clipper Adventurer*, with the majestic Andes on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. Explore the Atacama Desert's stark beauty, fly over the ancient and mysterious Nazca Lines, and witness an abundance of wildlife. Expert naturalists accompany you on Zodiac cruises to remote rocky islets for close-up views of red-legged shag, Inca tern, penguin, fur seal and sea lion (above). Zegramm Expeditions' outstanding crew members also guide your amazing visits to four World Heritage Sites and Chile's Lauca National Park.



© Zegramm Expeditions

## Trips beyond Oregon

### Birding in Southeast Arizona

May 10 - 17, 2009 Price \$2,195 Limit 9

Roam Southeast Arizona's saguaro deserts, grasslands and oak-lined canyons with naturalist Eric Horvath. Search for birds including zone-tailed and gray hawks, elegant trogon, elf and whiskered screech owls, and eight species of hummingbird. Photograph flowers, and see distinctive mammals and reptiles. Visit well-known sites including the Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek and Ramsey Canyon preserves, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and Cave Creek Canyon. (\$300)

### Veracruz River of Raptors

September 25 - October 3, 2009 Price \$2,450/\$2,675 (double/single occupancy) Limit 15

Witness one of the world's greatest migrations—the Veracruz River of Raptors—when over five million raptors soar along the coast near Mexico's historic port city. On a good day, over 100,000 raptors and vultures can be seen, and occasionally over 500,000 are counted! Look for some of the 540 bird species known to central Veracruz, including more than 25 endemics, as well as the passerine and waterbird migration, estimated at over 10 million each fall. Stop by a cave where approximately 250,000 bats emerge, tour archaeological sites including La Antigua and Cempoala, and visit the world-renowned Archaeological Museum in Xalapa. Explore a variety of habitats, from sea level to over 6,000 feet, including tropical thorn, cloud and pine-oak forests, coastal lagoons and shade coffee plantations. Join experienced guides from Pronatura Veracruz for this breathtaking natural event. (\$300)

### Peru: Macaws and Machu Picchu

September 26 - October 11, 2009 Price \$4,895 Limit 12

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, 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 otter, capybara, caiman, tapir, numerous species of monkey and, with luck, the rare harpy eagle. Join naturalist and expert birder Eric Horvath for this unforgettable trip through Peru. (\$500)



▲ A green parrot cleans its wings.

Ana Garcia © The Nature Conservancy

# 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 Sea of Cortez wildlife 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 qualified staff will help make your Great Bear Rainforest cruise unforgettable.



**BLUEWATER ADVENTURES**

Having conducted extensive ornithological research, **Eric Horvath's** birding experience has given him an exceptional ability to identify birds by their songs and calls. Eric's zoology degree and interests in botany and geology combine to make your Klamath Basin, Crater Lake, Southeast Arizona and Peru trips memorable birding opportunities.



**Ouzel Outfitters** has offered premier wilderness vacations on Northwest rivers for over two decades. Dedicated to the Conservancy's mission of preserving biodiversity, 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, John Day and Rogue rivers.



Founded in 1981, Pronatura is a Mexican nonprofit organization with a mission to conserve flora, fauna and priority ecosystems promoting society's development in harmony with nature. Their local, experienced staff will guide you through Veracruz's breathtaking raptor event.



**pronatura**  
ASOCIACIÓN CIVIL

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.



**Wallowa Llamas**

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 Dittrick and Lisa Moorehead direct knowledgeable and skilled guides to provide deeply rewarding, safe and fun exploration of the amazing Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



**Zegrahm Expeditions** specializes in expert-led excursions to remote locations around the world. Aboard a variety of vessels, their unique, small group voyages are led by seasoned experts and feature renowned lecturers. Come aboard for awe-inspiring cruises through Alaska's Bering Sea islands and South America's western coast.



**ZEGRAHM EXPEDITIONS**

## Please send me more information on the following natural history excursions in 2009:

### Oregon Trips:

- Klamath Birding Weekend March 6 - 9 or April 24 - 27
- Hells Canyon Country: Wildlife and Landscapes June 3 - 7
- Crater Lake: Birds and Natural History July 10 - 13
- Llama Trekking through Oregon's Wallowa Mountains August 13 - 18

### Cruises:

- Sea of Cortez Wildlife Cruise March 22 - 29
- Wild Alaska: Aleutians, Pribilofs, St. Lawrence, Katmai and the Bering Sea July 6 - 20
- Great Bear Rainforest August 27 - September 3
- West Coast of South America October 14 - November 2

### Trips Beyond Oregon:

- Birding in Southeast Arizona May 10 - 17
- Veracruz River of Raptors September 25 - October 3
- Peru: Macaws and Machu Picchu September 26 - October 11

### Rafting the Northwest:

- Rafting the Magnificent Owyhee River April 27 - May 1
- Rafting the John Day: Oregon's Longest Free-Flowing River June 8 - 12
- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Rafting the Marsh Fork/Canning River June 22 - July 3
- Rafting the Wild and Scenic Rogue River: A Camping Trip July 18 - 21

*If your name and address are listed correctly on the reverse side, there is no need to repeat them here. Please do include a phone number, however, 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](http://nature.org/travel).*

Questions? Contact Rudy Dietz, field trip program manager, The Nature Conservancy in Oregon

821 SE 14th Ave., Portland, OR 97214 Phone: 503 802-8100 E-mail: [excursions@tnc.org](mailto:excursions@tnc.org) Web: [nature.org/travel](http://nature.org/travel)



# 2009 natural history excursions

Dear Fellow Travelers,

I am happy to present you with this exciting list of Natural History Excursions for 2009! The Nature Conservancy in Oregon has been creating unique, nature-based experiences for our members since the late 1980s, and we are proud to continue this tradition.



© Carrie Walkiewicz/TNC

▲ Rudy Dietz, field trip program manager

We have four magnificent cruises available this year. Enjoy a whale watching excursion in the Sea of Cortez, where humpback, sperm, minke, finback, pilot and other whales call their home. Journey to Canada's 12-million-acre Great Bear Rainforest, or explore primitive Alaska and the nearby Aleutians, Pribilofs, St. Lawrence, Katmai and the Bearing Sea. Or, experience the entire West Coast of South America, seeing penguin, fur seal and sea lion while visiting incredible natural and cultural wonders in Peru, Ecuador and Chile.

If you're a birder, we have many exciting opportunities for you. See hundreds of bald eagles in the Klamath Basin, search for whiskered screech owl and hummingbird in Southeast Arizona, or visit Crater Lake National Park, looking for white-headed woodpecker and gray-crowned rosy finch. You're also invited to explore Machu Picchu while observing a huge variety of birds and other animals in the Andean highlands and Peruvian jungle, and witness up to 100,000 raptors in one of the world's largest migrations at Mexico's Veracruz River of Raptors.

We also have a host of rafting trips to beat the summer heat. Discover rugged canyons and painted rock minarets on the Owyhee River, or experience the exhilarating Wild and Scenic Rogue River in southwestern Oregon. For a more soothing float, we offer Oregon's longest undammed river, the beautiful John Day, where you can see Native American petroglyphs, settler homesteads and impressive rock formations.

Finally, we have our excursion to Hells Canyon Country, where you will behold the deepest canyon on the continent, and experience Zumwalt Prairie, one of North America's largest remaining native grasslands.

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

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 503 802-8100, or send an e-mail to [excursions@tnc.org](mailto:excursions@tnc.org). You may also visit our Web site, [nature.org/travel](http://nature.org/travel), to view detailed itineraries for each trip. I hope you will be able to join us for an adventure in 2009!

Rudy Dietz, field trip program manager



© Zegrahm Expeditions

▲ Valley of the Moon in Chile's Atacama Desert. This otherworldly scene is one of many incredible places visited during our inaugural cruise down the West Coast of South America.



© Jen Newlin Bell/TNC

▲ Llamas will carry your gear during our trek through the Eagle Cap Wilderness in northeastern Oregon.



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

821 SE 14th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97214  
[nature.org/oregon](http://nature.org/oregon)

PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PORTLAND, OR  
PERMIT NO. 428