

# 2026 Legacy Journeys



**SIX EXTRAORDINARY EXCURSIONS**

*Your invitation to experience nature with The Legacy Club*

The Nature  
Conservancy 

THE  
LEGACY  
CLUB





To see full trip itineraries  
or submit your interest in  
traveling with The Legacy Club,  
scan here!



# 2026 Legacy Journeys



## JOURNEY TO:

**Little St. Simons Island** to find respite in nature on a barrier island sanctuary off the coast of Georgia. ► [page 6](#)

**Hawai'i** to visit three islands formed by volcanoes, shaped by the surrounding sea, and teeming with extraordinary plants, animals and natural habitats. ► [page 8](#)

**Coastal Texas** to explore world-renowned bird-watching hot spots during the peak spring migration season for thousands of neotropical bird species. ► [page 10](#)

**Michigan's Upper Peninsula** to enjoy the dramatic beauty and abundant wildlife that define this treasured lakeside landscape. ► [page 12](#)

**Europe's Western Balkans** to take in dream-like rivers, stunning natural beauty and the rich cultural heritage of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. ► [page 14](#)

**East Tennessee** to embrace the breathtaking beauty and rich traditions of Southern Appalachia that captivate visitors from all over the world. ► [page 16](#)



# Dear Legacy Club Member,

We hope 2026 will be the year for you to join The Nature Conservancy on a Legacy Journey! We're offering Legacy Club members exclusive opportunities to visit TNC's work in some of the most iconic and breathtaking places on the planet. Each of our six destinations showcases the beauty and interconnectedness of the natural world, from the stunning scenery and rich culture of Europe's Western Balkans, to the prime spring stopover sites for migrating birds along the Texas coast, to the dramatic volcanic landscape of Hawai'i.

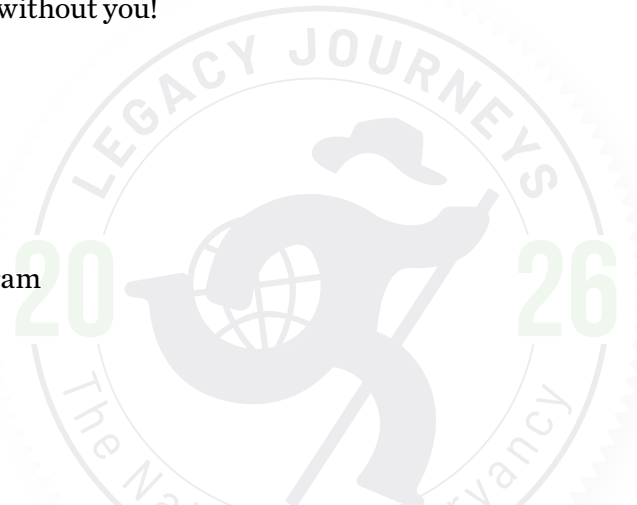
*Please note* that we're implementing a new sign-up process for the 2026 Legacy Journeys. **If you'd like to travel with TNC next year, we invite you to submit your interest online by September 11 at [nature.org/legacyjourneys](https://nature.org/legacyjourneys).** Trip spots will be filled in random order. This system ensures that all interested travelers are granted equal opportunity to participate in a trip.

Whether you join a 2026 Legacy Journey or not, thank you for your continued support for these and other TNC projects around the world. We couldn't do it without you!



Best wishes,

Meg B. Thomson  
Associate Director, Legacy Club Program



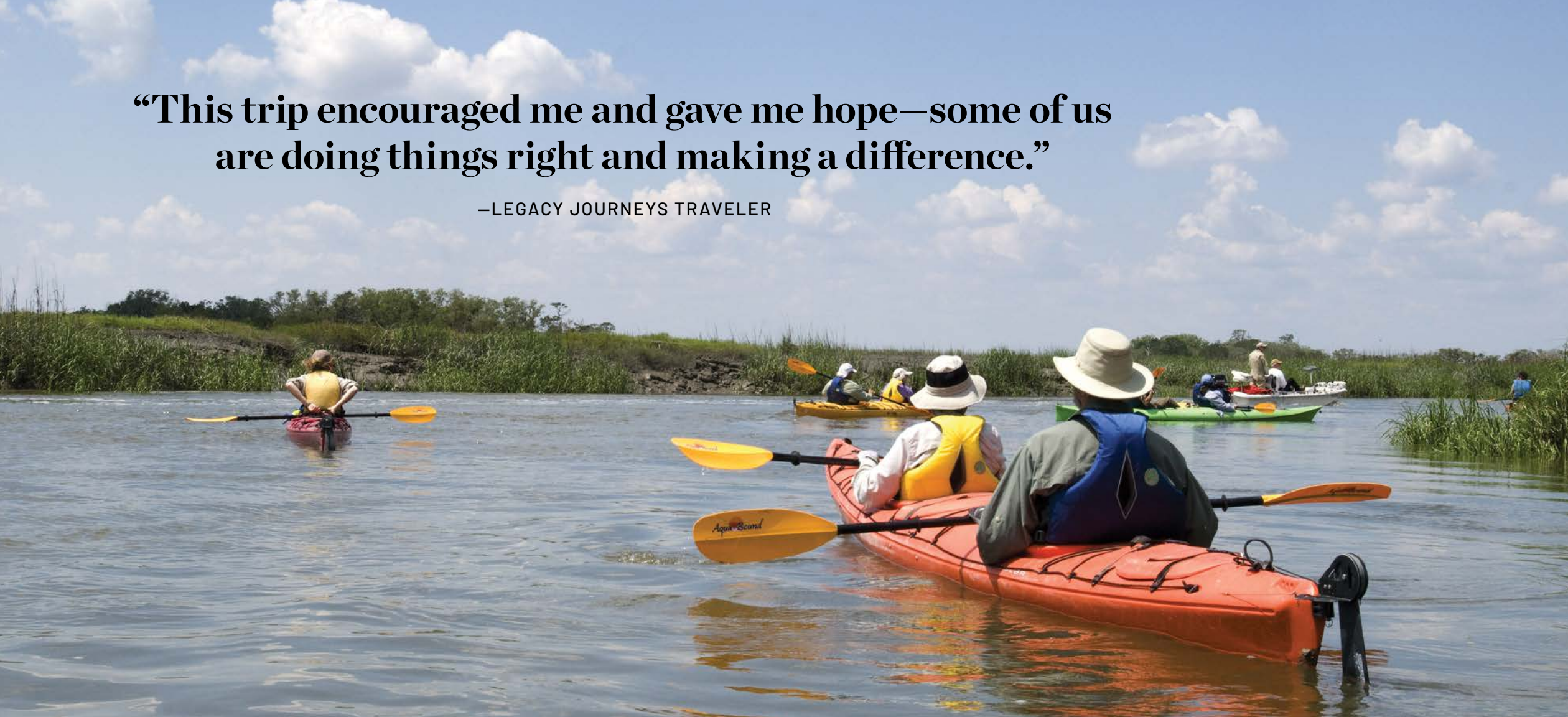
Visit **[nature.org/legacyjourneys](https://nature.org/legacyjourneys)** for TNC's travel requirements and further information.

We've included icons to represent anticipated journey activities to help you consider if a trip is a good fit for you. For a full legend of the icons, see page 20.



“This trip encouraged me and gave me hope—some of us  
are doing things right and making a difference.”

—LEGACY JOURNEYS TRAVELER



## Journeys Sign-Up Process

TNC is excited to announce a new streamlined and equitable registration process for our 2026 Legacy Journeys. **We invite you to submit your interest in these exciting departures now through Thursday, September 11, 11:59 p.m. ET, using our online Trip Interest Form at [nature.org/legacyjourneys](https://nature.org/legacyjourneys).**

### Instructions

1. Legacy Club members looking to travel with TNC in 2026 **must submit a Trip Interest Form.**
  - Unlike prior years, the date and time by which you submit your Trip Interest Form *will not* impact your chance of being assigned to a trip, as long as you do so by the September 11 deadline.
2. The Trip Interest Form will allow you to choose **up to three** trips you would like to participate in and rank them in order of preference.
3. After the September 11 deadline, a random selection process will be used to place travelers on trips, taking into account your destination preferences.
  - You may be assigned to your second- or third-choice trip if your first choice is already full.
4. If all of your chosen and ranked trips are full by the time it is your turn to be assigned to a trip, you will be added to the waitlist for each trip of interest.

For more information about this new process and to access the Trip Interest Form, please visit [nature.org/LegacyJourneys](https://nature.org/LegacyJourneys) or contact TNC's Legacy Journeys travel manager, Erin Crowther, directly at [LegacyJourneys@tnc.org](mailto:LegacyJourneys@tnc.org) or **(317) 829-1873**.

Please note: Travelers will only be assigned to **one** Legacy Journeys trip per year.



# Little St. Simons Island



**Experience tranquility on the Georgia coast** and the spectacular ecological riches found on Little St. Simons Island. The privately owned barrier island is accessible only by boat and has been managed as a nature sanctuary for generations. Its wetlands, woods and shell-strewn coastline beckon exploration by foot and kayak. A prime spot for bird-watching, it offers close-up views of migratory birds feeding in the morning shadows and surf. Whether you paddle through tidal creeks and salt marshes or stroll through maritime forests with moss-draped oaks, you'll be certain to enjoy this incredible retreat.

## Highlights

- Hop in a truck for a guided excursion with naturalists who live and work on the island.
- Tuck into a bird blind to observe egrets, wood storks, herons and roseate spoonbills.
- Kayak along tidal creeks surrounded by thousands of acres of protected coastal salt marsh.
- Scan the shores and marshes for shorebirds and American alligators.



## Conservation Efforts

Little St. Simons Island lies within the Altamaha River Delta, one of Georgia's most important habitats for thousands of seabirds and shorebirds. The area has long been a focus for TNC's conservation work in the state. Since the 1960s, we have protected a contiguous corridor of more than 50 miles of ecologically important lands within the watershed to bolster the resilience of coastal habitats threatened by increasing development and a changing climate.

**March 8-13**

### TRIP COST BY OCCUPANCY

Double	Single
\$3,313/person	\$5,125/person



Scan for your itinerary or visit [nature.org/legacyjourneys](https://nature.org/legacyjourneys)

**Note:** This trip must have a minimum of 24 participants, with a maximum of 30.



# Hawai‘i



**Immerse yourself in Hawai‘i’s natural splendor** during an unforgettable journey to one of the most ecologically diverse places on Earth. Our trip to three of Hawai‘i’s eight main islands—Hawai‘i, Maui and Kaua‘i—reaches beyond beautiful sunsets and turquoise waters to their unique flora and fauna, which are deeply rooted in Hawaiian culture. From Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island to the ridges and reefs of Maui to Waimea Canyon, Kaua‘i’s “Grand Canyon of the Pacific,” travelers will share an exceptional experience.

## Highlights

- Watch for humpback whales that have migrated from Alaska to breed in the warm waters of the ‘Au‘au Channel off the coast of Maui.
- Look to the treetops during a visit to Waikamoi Preserve, a rainforest that harbors endemic birds, including the critically endangered ‘ākohekohe, or crested honeycreeper, and *kiwīkiu*, or Maui parrotbill, found only on Maui.
- Trek through a landscape shaped by the heat of the Earth at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, where you may also observe active eruptions and flowing lava.



## Conservation Efforts

In Hawai‘i, TNC is conserving lands, waters and local livelihoods in the spirit of *mālama ‘āina*, which means to care for the land so that future generations can thrive and prosper. TNC in Hawai‘i’s Climate Solutions Fund is supporting nature-based projects in Hawai‘i and Palmyra that provide natural protections against the impacts of climate change. Support from the fund has advanced work that includes monitoring the health of native forests, protecting endemic birds, ensuring the safety of researchers at remote locations and building resilience in nearshore waters through reef restoration.

**March 21–28**

### TRIP COST BY OCCUPANCY

Double	Single
\$5,875/person	\$7,170/person



Scan for your itinerary or visit  
[nature.org/legacyjourneys](https://nature.org/legacyjourneys)

**Note:** This trip must have a minimum of 14 travelers, with a maximum of 15.



# Coastal Texas



**Join us for this bird-watcher’s dream getaway.** Each year, springtime beckons more than 2 billion birds to embark on long flights from Central and South America to northern destinations, such as the Upper Texas Coast. During the first part of our journey, we search for red-cockaded woodpeckers, Bachman’s sparrows, fish crows, brown-headed nuthatches and other species at the Big Thicket, an area known for an impressive variety of dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies. Our adventures will also take us through the coastal woodlands of High Island and the rice fields, beaches and wetlands around Galveston Bay.

## Highlights

- Explore coastal mottes on the globally celebrated birding hot spot of High Island.
- Learn from TNC experts about conservation work to enhance the Upper Texas Coast’s resiliency against storms and climate change through natural infrastructure like oyster reefs.
- Take a ferry to Galveston Island and Bolivar Flats, where marbled godwits, red knots, long-billed dowitchers and other shorebirds feast on a nutrient-rich smorgasbord brought in by the tides.



## Conservation Efforts

Longleaf pine once blanketed more than 90 million acres across the Southeastern U.S. Today, just 5.2 million acres remain. At its Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary—located in the heart of the Big Thicket, a popular destination for bird-watchers—TNC is working with partners to restore longleaf pine woodlands and to protect the open meadows and bald cypress swamps found there. In addition to practicing sustainable forest management on the preserve, TNC is utilizing prescribed burning, which emulates the natural historical disturbance required to maintain a healthy, fire-adapted longleaf pine ecosystem.

**April 22–27**

### TRIP COST BY OCCUPANCY

Double	Single
\$3,890/person	\$4,870/person



Scan for your itinerary or visit [nature.org/legacyjourneys](https://nature.org/legacyjourneys)

**Note:** This trip must have a minimum of 8 travelers, with a maximum of 12.



# Michigan's Upper Peninsula



**Dip your toes in sparkling fresh water** during a visit to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which boasts more than 4,000 lakes scattered along rugged coastlines and rock outcroppings, peaceful forests, and complex wetlands that host a vast array of wildlife. On this journey, experience the unparalleled beauty of Lake Superior's shores. Starting in Marquette, explore the coast to its northernmost point, which projects into Lake Superior and carries the moniker of Copper Country to mark its prominence in the nation's first mining boom in the 1800s. From the rocks below to the sky above, this adventure promises to provide insights into places many visitors often miss.

## Highlights

- Hike beneath dramatic granite cliff tops at TNC's Echo Lake Nature Preserve.
- Take to the sky on a seaplane with remote, wildlife-filled Isle Royale National Park as your destination.
- Set out on a kayaking adventure to explore the sandy beaches and wetlands along Lake Superior.



## Conservation Efforts

Sustainably managed for decades as a healthy, mature working forest, Slate River Forest—with towering hemlock trees and free-flowing rivers—is rich, diverse and stunningly beautiful. TNC's science has found that this area ranks among the most resilient lands in Michigan, meaning it can sustain natural diversity in the face of a changing climate. That's why after establishing it as a working forest reserve, TNC is continuing good stewardship practices there that will help sequester carbon and sustain its vitality and diversity.

August 2-7

### TRIP COST BY OCCUPANCY

Double	Single
\$6,295/person	\$6,995/person



Scan for your itinerary or visit [nature.org/legacyjourneys](https://nature.org/legacyjourneys)

**Note:** This trip must have 14 travelers.



# Europe’s Western Balkans



**Water leads the way in the Western Balkans.** During this debut Legacy Journey to Croatia and over the border into Bosnia and Herzegovina, we’ll explore scenic countrysides and quaint towns that are largely a secret to the rest of the world. Hear from TNC experts working on the ground to protect the region’s most ecologically significant natural landscapes and some of Europe’s last free-flowing rivers. From waterfalls to underground streams and vast wetlands, you’ll learn about environmental challenges and opportunities, as well as the ways that TNC can play a role in safeguarding these global hot spots for unique plants and animals.

## Highlights

- Float along the sparkling Kupa River in a traditional Žitna lađa boat to enjoy a unique perspective of Croatia’s forests, monasteries and local wildlife.
- Venture into Plitvice Lakes National Park to see unique tufa formations of hollow, porous rock that, over millennia, have created natural barriers to form the park’s globally significant system of lakes.
- Immerse yourself in the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the Japod Valley as you explore its cascading waterfalls and medieval fortresses.



## Conservation Efforts

The Nature Conservancy has teamed up with six local partners through United for Rivers to support community-led efforts to conserve 400 kilometers of rivers across southeastern Europe’s Western Balkans by 2030. The region is home to some of the continent’s remaining free-flowing rivers, which are threatened by proposed dams and pollution. In 2024, the initiative helped to secure legal protection for the Mrežnica and Tounjčica rivers in Croatia. This work will safeguard the ecological, social and cultural values of these freshwater ecosystems for generations.

**September 5–12**

### TRIP COST BY OCCUPANCY

Double	Single
\$7,060/person	\$7,475/person



Scan for your itinerary or visit [nature.org/legacyjourneys](https://nature.org/legacyjourneys)

**Note:** This trip must have 14 travelers.



# East Tennessee



**Discover the allure of Tennessee**, where natural wonders abound in some of the most ecologically diverse regions of Southern Appalachia. Our journey takes us to the eastern side of the Volunteer State to visit the unique bogs of the Blue Ridge Mountains. We'll explore a forward-thinking economic development project that promotes nature-based tourism as an alternative to traditional timber harvesting in order to enhance forest health and boost the local economy. Last but not least, we'll take in the breathtaking Great Smoky Mountains—a place the native Cherokee people called *Shaconage* (sha-kon-o-hey), which means “place of blue smoke.” With exclusive visits to TNC’s preserves and insights from local experts, you’ll experience places throughout the region that most visitors never see.

## Highlights

- Visit Shady Valley to see globally rare peat wetlands, plants and animals—and an unusual, naturally occurring cranberry bog.
- Explore trails and overlooks on side-by-side vehicles and partake in a picnic with a view at Doe Mountain Recreation Area.
- Spend time in Great Smoky Mountains National Park to hike and learn about how fire benefits nature in the Southern Appalachians.



## Conservation Efforts

Every 10 years, Tennessee’s State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is revised to incorporate innovative approaches and adapt to changing conditions. SWAP is a cornerstone of the state’s conservation efforts and serves as a guide to protect and manage wildlife, fish and plant species and their habitats. TNC, state and federal agencies, and more than 20 other organizations have united in a steering committee to develop an evolving strategy that will increase the capacity for progress in prioritized habitats from the Mississippi River to the Blue Ridge Mountains.

**October 11–16**

### TRIP COST BY OCCUPANCY

Double	Single
\$6,190/person	\$7,275/person



Scan for your itinerary or visit  
[nature.org/legacyjourneys](https://nature.org/legacyjourneys)

**Note:** This trip must have 14 travelers.



“Nature gives to every time and season  
some beauties of its own.”

—CHARLES DICKENS





# Is a Journey Right for You?

When considering whether a trip is right for you, review the itinerary and activities involved. Travelers should be able to walk as many as 3 miles over uneven terrain with some elevation gain per day. Some trips may include activities such as boating, snorkeling or swimming. Expect to be outdoors for four to eight hours on most days. A range of weather conditions is possible during each trip. If you do not wish to participate in an activity, discuss this with the tour operator prior to the trip, and, if possible, accommodations will be made. If you have any questions about whether a trip is right for you, please contact **legacyjourneys@tnc.org** or call **(317) 829-1873**.

With each journey, we are committed to travel practices that have a minimal impact on our planet. These include, but are not limited to:

- utilizing environmentally and socially responsible vendors;
- pursuing carbon offsets for each traveler to establish a carbon-neutral program; and
- reducing waste.

While we want to host as many supporters as possible to experience nature and TNC’s work, we limit the number of travelers on these journeys to:

- ensure travelers have the opportunity to personally connect with TNC staff;
- promote relationship and community building with fellow travelers; and
- provide a variety of activities that are best accomplished with smaller groups.

## Icon Legend



Birding



Boating



Cycling



Fishing



Hiking



Kayaking



Sea plane



Walking



Wildlife viewing

**Note that the prices quoted in this brochure are estimates and may change based on taxes and incidental fees.**

**QUESTIONS?** Our Legacy Club team is here to help with questions about your opportunities and communications, or about TNC’s conservation work. Email **LCteam@tnc.org** and a team member will get back to you!

By printing *2026 Legacy Journeys* on 100% post-consumer recycled paper made with windmill energy, we save: 15.51 trees, 729 pounds of landfill, 1,436 pounds of greenhouse emissions, 6,590 gallons of water and 10,988,800 BTUs of energy.

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[nature.org/legacyjourneys](https://nature.org/legacyjourneys)

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itineraries!



**Join us on an  
exclusive journey!**