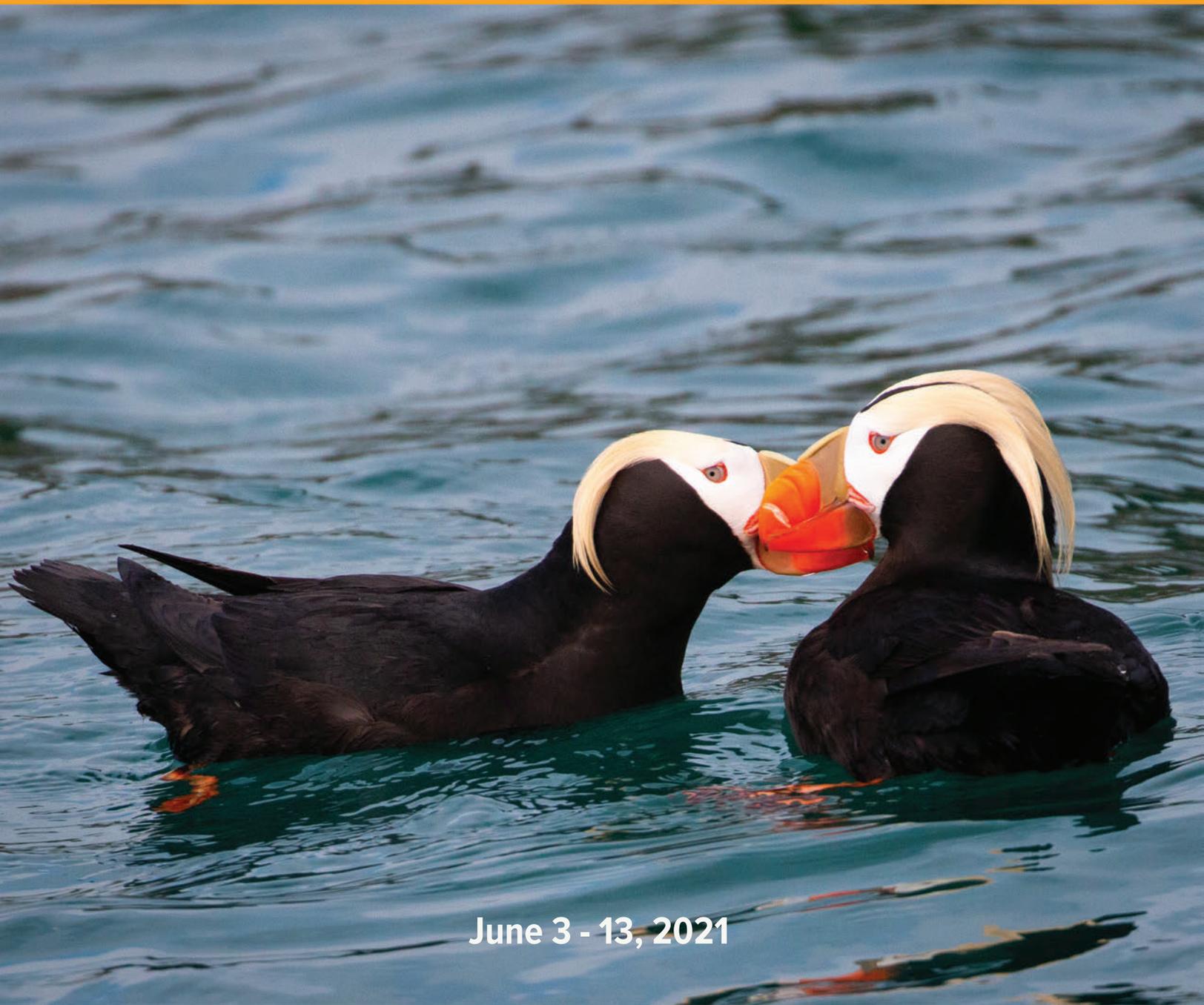


ALASKA



June 3 - 13, 2021



Wild **LATITUDES**
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

ALASKA

Birding and Natural History

Greetings, Fellow Explorer!

We've put together a great tour to Alaska that showcases many natural highlights of the state. This itinerary is perfect for first-time visitors to Alaska, but also for returning nature lovers who want to see and learn more about this fascinating place.

Our focus will be birding as well as wildlife watching, with some geology and ecology in the mix. Our opportunities to see birds and mammals will be excellent. We'll explore several major ecosystems across Alaska, including rugged coastlines, boreal forests, and subalpine parkland. Many bird species breed and nest in the habitats that we'll visit. And the long hours of sunlight encourage birds and mammals to be active almost around the clock.

Some special birds we'll be looking for include Horned Puffin, Willow Ptarmigan, Long-tailed Jaeger, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Arctic Warbler. Mammalian megafauna that we hope to see are Moose, Grizzly Bear, Dall Sheep, Caribou, Sea Otter, and more.

The tour will start in Anchorage and then head down to the Kenai Peninsula, where we'll take a day-long boat ride into Kenai Fjords National Park.

We return north, heading to Denali National Park. On the way, we'll explore a portion of the amazing Denali Highway.

We then fly from Anchorage to Nome, where we'll venture out on backroads to explore the subarctic tundra ecosystem. We'll have chances to find new bird species that breed in or migrate through this wild area. We're also likely to see some great mammals, such as Muskox!

We are opening this tour exclusively to members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, so if you're interested, **please contact Daryl Goldman at travelprogram@goldengateaudubon.org**



Steve Robertson and Ivan Phillipsen
Co-owners and Lead Guides at Wild Latitudes

TRIP DETAILS

Start Date: June 3, 2021

Duration: 11 days

Number of participants: Max of 12

Price: \$4,595 per person

Deposit: \$2,300 per person

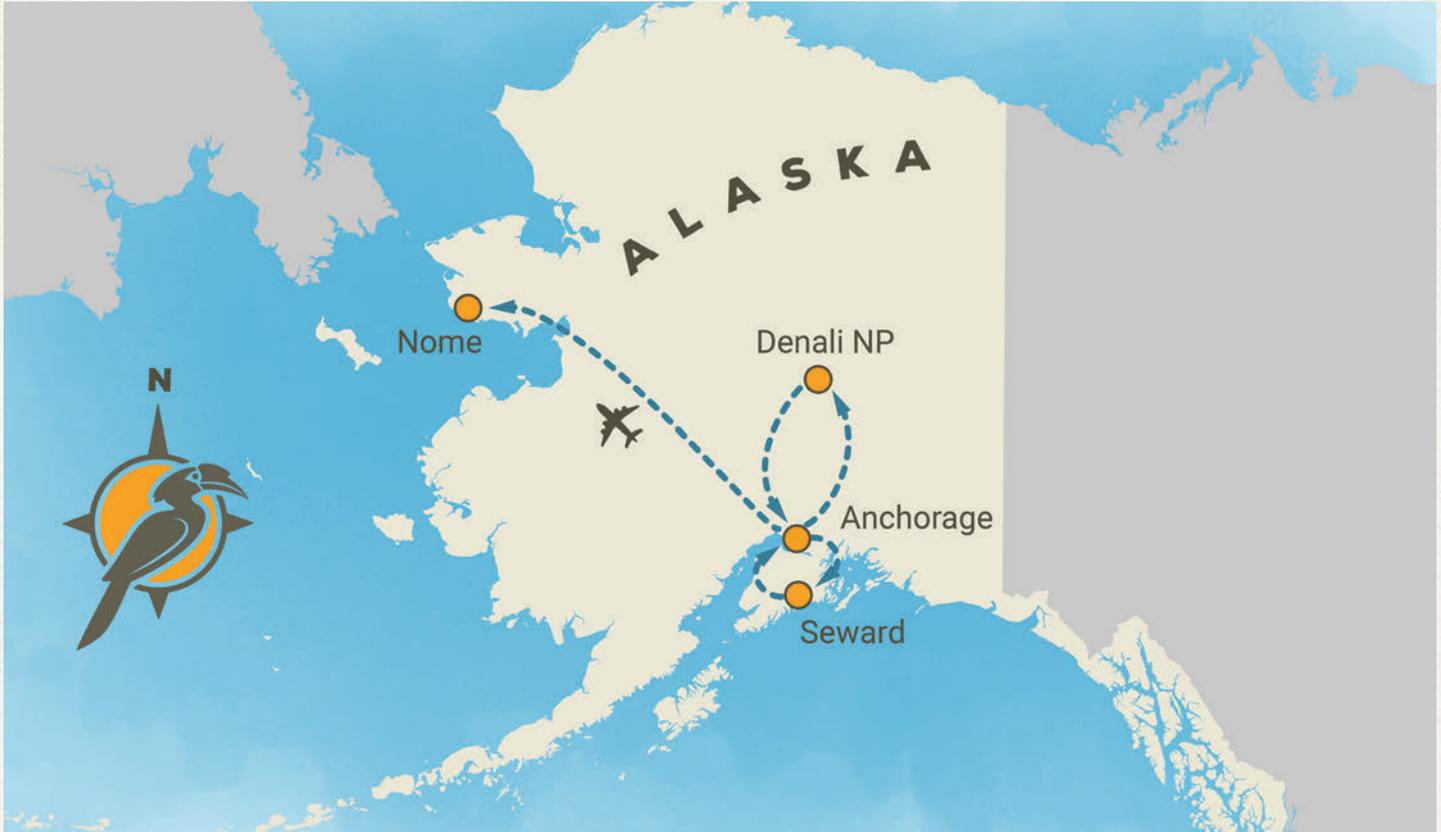
Single Supplement: \$1000 (not available in Nome portion of tour)

Included:

- Double-occupancy lodging
- Ground and water transportation
- Breakfasts and lunches
- Excursions and park fees
- Guiding services

Not Included:

- Airfare to/from Alaska at trip beginning/end
- Airfare to/from Nome
- Dinners
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal items
- Optional gratuities for guides



ITINERARY

Tentative and subject to change depending on weather, road, or other conditions.

Day 1 - June 3 - Arrival in Anchorage, AK

Welcome to the great state of Alaska! Your trip leaders will meet the group at the airport and will drive everyone to our nearby hotel. After checking in, we'll have a brief orientation meeting. There will hopefully be time to explore the city a bit before we enjoy our first dinner together.

Lodging: [Historic Anchorage Hotel](#)

Day 2 - June 4 - Head South to the Kenai Peninsula

After breakfast we'll jump in our vans and drive south to the town of Seward on the Kenai Peninsula. We'll stop on the way to go for birding walks in forest, stream, and coastal habitats. Major stops include Tern Lake and Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park. A few species we hope to find include **Trumpeter Swan**, **Red-necked Grebe**, and **Spruce Grouse**. With luck, we'll see some **Moose** and other big mammals today, maybe even **Beluga** whales! In the evening, we'll gather to begin filling in our bird and wildlife lists, and have a fun dinner in town.

Lodging: [Best Western Edgewater Hotel](#)

Day 3 - June 5 - Cruising Kenai Fjords National Park

Get ready for an amazing day filled with birds, wildlife, and epic scenery! We'll have our own chartered boat for a whole day of exploring the coastal wilderness of Kenai Fjords National Park. With luck, we'll witness the spectacle of a huge tidewater glacier dropping icebergs into the sea with a thundering crash! Numerous bird species will be our targets today, including **Red-faced Cormorant**, **Rhinoceros Auklet**, **Pigeon Guillemot**, **Marbled Murrelet**, and **Kittlitz's Murrelet**. We'll get close looks at **Tufted** and **Horned Puffins** as well as **Black-legged Kittiwakes** at their nest colonies on isolated islands. We might also spot **Sea Otters**, **Steller Sea Lions**, **Humpback Whales**, and **Orca**.

Lodging: Best Western Edgewater Hotel



Day 4 - June 6 - Head North to Talkeetna

Today we leave Seward and head north towards the lofty Alaska Range and the interior of the state. We have a long drive to our lodge in Talkeetna, but we'll break up



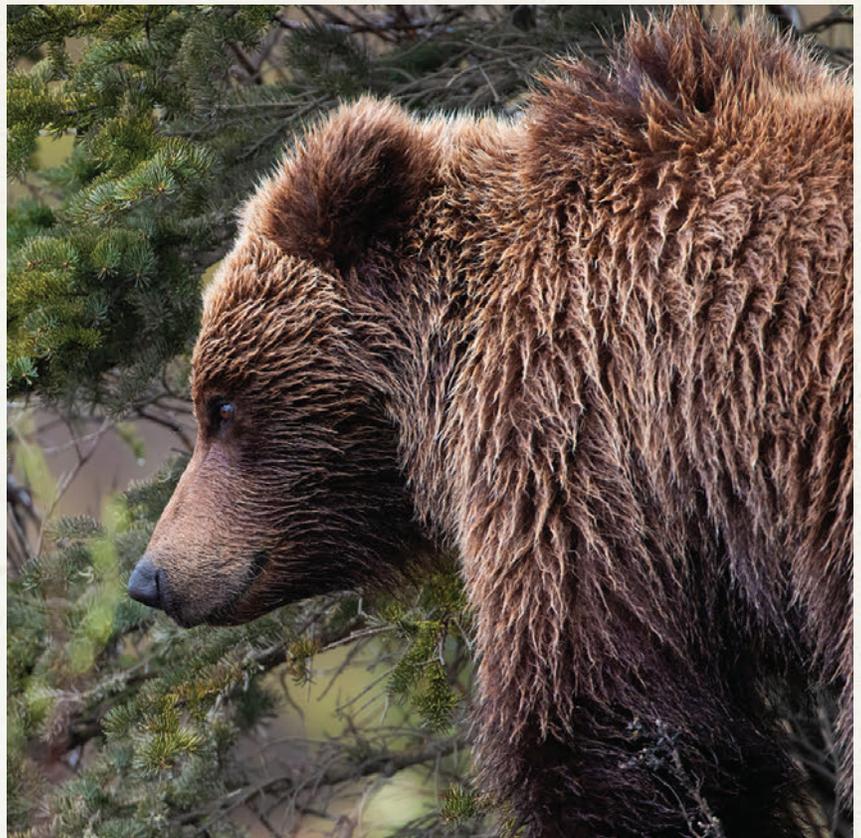
the journey with relaxing bird walks and a stop for lunch. We'll have time in the late afternoon to enjoy the small town's shops, museum, and parks. *Optional Activity:* We may be able to prearrange a spectacular afternoon/evening flightseeing experience over Denali National Park for those who are interested (extra fee required). Ride in a small plane over the glaciers of Denali for an amazing experience!

Lodging: [Swiss Alaska Inn](#)

Day 5 - June 7 - Birding on the Denali Highway

Leaving Talkeetna early this morning, we head for the Denali Highway. This is a mostly gravel road that stretches 135 miles from the edge of Denali National Park eastward to Paxson. It is one of the premier scenic drives of the world and is also great for birding! We'll explore the western end of the highway through boreal forest, riparian bush, and wetlands. Bird highlights here may include **Long-tailed Jaeger**, **Northern Hawk Owl**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Arctic Warbler**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Merlin**, **Smith's Longspur**, and more. Big mammals will again be a possibility. Returning to the main highway, we may get good views of 20,310 ft Denali (formerly Mt McKinley), if the weather is clear. We'll be spending the next two nights at a simple hotel outside of Denali National Park.

Lodging: [Denali Park Hotel](#)





Day 6 - June 8 - Denali National Park

This is our big day of experiencing the wonders of Denali National Park. The only road in the park is almost entirely closed to private vehicles, so we'll ride the shuttle bus. We'll take the bus deep into the park on an all-day adventure filled with fantastic scenery and wildlife. Stops on the way will allow us to eat lunch and stretch our legs and bird on short walks. Some birds to look for are **Golden Eagle, Willow Ptarmigan, Northern Shrike,** and **Gyr Falcon.** We'll have excellent chances of seeing **Brown Bears, Moose, Caribou, Dall Sheep.** More rare but possible are **Gray Wolf** and **Canada Lynx.** Smaller mammals include **Arctic Ground Squirrels, Red Squirrels, marmots** and **foxes.** Don't forget your camera today!

Lodging: [Denali Park Hotel](#)

Day 7 - June 9 - Return to Anchorage

After breakfast and a visit to the Denali National Park Visitor Center and bookstore, we'll begin our journey back south to Anchorage. For those who are interested, there is an option of taking a wonderfully scenic and relaxing train ride back to Anchorage directly from the national park (extra fee required). Those who choose to continue in the vans will have one or two birding walks on our way to Anchorage.

Lodging: [Aspen Suites](#)

Day 8 - June 10 - Fly to Nome and Local Birding

This morning we fly to Nome. We've left the boreal forest behind and now find ourselves surrounded by wet tundra and shrub thickets. On our first day in the area we'll hit local birding and wildlife hotspots outside of town. Time along the shore will hopefully yield some interesting bird species that we haven't seen so far in Alaska. Examples include **Eastern Yellow Wagtail**, **Hoary Redpoll**, and **Lapland Longspur**. We'll work on our bird and wildlife lists in the evening over a hearty meal, in preparation for the following two days of adventure.

Lodging: Aurora Inn

Our Commitment to Conservation

On every Wild Latitudes tour, we aim to make a positive conservation impact wherever we travel. We often utilize the services of local guides and stay in environmentally-sensitive, locally-owned lodges. On every trip, we make a donation to a local conservation effort that works to protect native species or ecosystems. When you travel with Wild Latitudes, you're helping to protect the wild regions you visit and the amazing species that call them home.





Day 9 - June 11 - Birding and Wildlife Watching on Teller Road

Today we head out for the first of our two big days in the Alaskan bush north of Nome. We'll be driving the unpaved Teller Road for the whole day. Great birds and wildlife may be seen anywhere along this route. We hope to encounter one or more **Muskox** families today, and there are good chances of seeing **Grizzly Bear**, **Moose**, **Caribou**, and **Red Fox**. Some exciting birds we'll be searching for are **Bluethroat**, **Rock Ptarmigan**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Pomarine Jaeger**, **Short-eared Owl**, and **Snow Bunting**.

Lodging: Aurora Inn

Day 10 - June 12 - Birding and Wildlife Watching on Council Road

On our last big day in Alaska we'll be driving the famed birding route along Council Road, northeast of Nome. We'll see some beautiful scenery as we search for birds and other animals along the way. Before we leave the coast, we'll do some birding on the shores of Safety Sound. Some birds we hope to see there are **Yellow-billed Loon**, **Steller's** and **King Eider**, **Sabine's Gull**, and **Aleutian Tern**. Further in the backcountry, we'll be on the lookout for **Brant**, **Boreal Chickadee**, **Pine Grosbeak**, **Bohemian Waxwing**, and more. If we're very lucky, we might even get to see the shy **Bristle-thighed Curlew**. In the evening we'll make a toast to our grand adventure and review our final bird and wildlife lists.

Lodging: Aurora Inn

ALASKA

June 3 - 13, 2020

Day 11 - June 13 - Fly Home

After breakfast we'll head to the airport and say our final goodbyes as we part company.



ALASKA

YOUR GUIDES

IVAN PHILLIPSEN

Ivan is a passionate naturalist with a background in scientific research. He holds a M.S. in biology from Cal State San Bernardino and a Ph.D. in zoology from Oregon State University.

He is the Co-owner of Wild Latitudes. Before starting this business, Ivan led many domestic and international tours for the Audubon Society of Portland and still works for Lindblad Expeditions as a shipboard naturalist in Alaska and Baja California, Mexico. In recent years, Ivan has led birding tours to Uganda, Ecuador, Mexico, Fiji, Iceland, and Australia.

Natural history is Ivan's true passion and what he is most excited to share with tour participants. Although he is fascinated by just about every aspect of nature, Ivan is particularly fond of birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, plants, and geology. Everything is interconnected in nature and Ivan does his best to take a holistic approach when teaching about the natural world.



EMILY MOUNT

Emily grew up in Niwot, Colorado and Pullman, Washington. Her love of nature began as a child during family vacations spent hiking, camping and exploring the mountains and deserts of the west. In contrast to her outdoors interests, Emily pursued an intensive young career as a classical violinist, culminating in degrees in history and music performance at the University of Washington.

Seeking a breath of fresh air from concert halls and stuffy classrooms, she returned to the roots of her childhood through an internship as a park ranger at Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado. From 2005-2012, Emily worked at ten national parks across the west as a naturalist, backcountry ranger, and EMT. The parks she worked at include Glacier Bay, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Sequoia.



Since 2013, Emily has worked around the world as a naturalist and photography instructor for Lindblad Expeditions/National Geographic. Photography is one of Emily's passions, taking her anywhere there is something wild. Her images appear in galleries and magazines, and she loves teaching photography. When she's not traveling with Lindblad, Emily writes articles focused on natural history and conservation for publications including *Alaska*, *National Parks*, *Sierra*, and *Orion*.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE PACE AND STYLE OF OUR TOURS

The primary goal of our trips is to experience and learn about the natural world, especially the region's birds and other wildlife, and of course, to have fun! As birding is often a primary focus of our tours, and birds are active in the morning, we will sometimes have early morning outings before breakfast. That said, our style of birding may not be ideal for hard-core "listers." We prefer to spend time observing the species we encounter, and learn a bit about their natural history, rather than rushing through the field to add the maximum number of species to our bird list. We also make diversions for interesting, non-avian wildlife, plants, geological wonders, and cultural activities. The pace of most of our trips is moderate, and we encourage anyone in good health to attend and enjoy the experience. Please contact us about if you need specific information on the types of physical activities on a tour and their physical requirements.

We strive to immerse participants in the local culture and to that end, wherever possible, we stay in locally owned and operated hotels that are designed and run in an environmentally sustainable way. Though some accommodations may be more basic than others, all are safe, clean and comfortable. We also utilize the services of local guides, visit local markets, and other culturally significant sites.

TOUR DATE AND TRIP LEADER CHANGES

Leaders and schedules are determined up to a year in advance of our tours. In the event that we have a change in a tour's dates or leaders, we reserve the right to do so, and will strive to inform participants as early in the process as possible. Additional leaders may be added to tours according to the group size, and will be specified in the tour itinerary. We also reserve the right to cancel any trip for which there are insufficient reservations.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE TOUR

We are opening this tour exclusively to members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, so if you're interested, **please contact Daryl Goldman at travelprogram@goldengateaudubon.org**

Then we'll send you the link to our online registration form. You can choose to pay your deposit by credit card or check. See 'Deposit Policy' below.

DEPOSIT POLICY

A deposit is due at the time of registration. ***A deposit is the only thing that guarantees your place on the trip.*** Registration can be made over the phone with a credit card: 503-714-3504. *Note:* there is an additional 3.0% fee for credit card payments. This is only what we are charged by the credit card company.

Checks are happily accepted and should be made out to *Wild Latitudes LLC*. Include the tour name on the memo line of the check and send to:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Wild Latitudes, PO Box 25115, Portland, OR 97298.

PAYMENT POLICY

Full payment is required **90 days** prior to the tour departure date for international tours or any tour involving flights; and **30 days** prior to the tour departure date for local (i.e. in the Portland, Oregon area), van-based tours.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event a participant needs to cancel a reservation for any tour, the following policies will apply:

- **90 days** or more prior to tour departure date, the deposit will be refunded, minus an administrative fee of \$100.
- **Less than 90 days but more than 60 days** prior to tour departure date, all payments refunded, minus 50% of deposit.
- **Less than 60 days** prior to tour departure date, no refunds will be given.

We *strongly* recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself from unforeseen circumstances.

If for any reason, Wild Latitudes cancels a tour, prior to its start, full refunds, minus the cost of any internal (i.e. in-country) airline tickets purchased, will be given to all participants. In the event the tour is cancelled while underway due to unforeseen events such as but not limited to natural disaster, military activities, social uprising, or other extremely dangerous conditions not within the control of Wild Latitudes, no refund will be issued.

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