



2010 natural history excursions

Oregon Trips

Klamath Birding Weekend

March 5 - 8, 2010 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 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 Southeast Oregon: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

May 15 - 19, 2010 Price \$790 Limit 8

Visit the Great Basin Desert, including the best birding spots and areas protected by the Conservancy. Coinciding with peak songbird migration and waterbird courtship displays, our trip will focus on getting close looks at many birds of the West. With bulrushes still low, temperatures mild and bird diversity superb, we'll spend two days at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge — one of North America's best birding locations. We'll also take time to identify and photograph wildflowers, learn about regional conservation strategies, and enjoy the dramatic scenery of one of Oregon's most beautiful places. (\$100)

NEW

Hells Canyon Country: Wildlife and Landscapes

June 2 - 6, 2010 Price \$1,295 Limit 14

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 (above) and bighorn sheep — and meet 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.



© Rick McEwan

Trips beyond Oregon

FEATURE TRIP



▲ Elephants, cheetahs and zebras are among several animals you'll see during our African safari across Kenya.

Kenya Safari

August 26 - September 3, 2010

Price \$9,895 Limit 12

Our journey into Kenya begins in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, one of Africa's most extraordinary conservation success stories. This private reserve has played an instrumental role in returning black and white rhinoceros from the brink of extinction and is also a sanctuary for endangered Grevy's zebras, sitatungas, cheetahs and elephants. Next is the Namunyak Conservancy, where conservation and community have partnered in this stunning landscape of rolling hills, perennial rivers and the Masai spiritual mountains of the Matthews Range. Our focus is on walking, led by local game scouts. One of Africa's most acclaimed game reserves, the Masai Mara is renowned for its annual wildebeest migration. Game drives will take us among plains animals including gazelles, impalas, wildebeests, hartebeests, topis, zebras and giraffes. Predators flourish here; the Mara is famed for its lions, which we may see hunting in the early morning or evening. *Note: Small group fee of \$400 may apply.*

Birds of Texas: Big Bend and the Edwards Plateau

April 22 - May 1, 2010 Price \$2,290 Limit 14

Roam part of the 800,000-acre Big Bend National Park with naturalist Eric Horvath in search of birds including Cassin's kingbirds, Mexican jays, road-runners and elf owls, as well as interesting geology and

many species of blooming cacti. Join Conservancy staff for a tour of the Davis Mountains Preserve, home to Montezuma quails and common black hawks. On the way to the Edwards Plateau, look for scissor-tailed flycatchers, Harris' hawks and cave swallows. Once in the hill country, search for black-capped vireos, golden-cheeked warblers and green kingfishers. Lodging in comfortable motels, cabins and lodges. (\$300)

Walking the Redwood Coast

May 2 - 8, 2010 Price \$1,580 Limit 8

Walk among the legendary redwood forests of California's northern coast — some of the largest living things on Earth — with experienced tour guide George Baetjer. Enjoy warm fall weather and uncrowded trails as we trek through national and state parks featuring a mixture of old-growth forest and scenic coastal trails. Visit two Nature Conservancy cooperative projects: Lanphere Dunes, the most pristine dune ecosystem on the West Coast, and Crook Point, a spectacular coastal headland not normally open to the public. (\$250)



▲ Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, California

© George Baetjer

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* 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.

Cruises

BEST OF INDONESIA



Voyage I: Port Moresby to Manado

February 15 - March 6, 2010 Price \$10,280 Limit 20

Cruise from New Guinea's fascinating Asmat villages to the northern tip of Sulawesi Island. Explore the Raja Ampat archipelago — whose seas, part of the fabled Coral Triangle, are considered to hold the richest species variety on the planet. Sail the breathtaking coast of the MacCluer Gulf, visiting remote tribal villages and, during two days in the spectacular volcanic Halmahera Islands, make expedition stops to visit villages and snorkel or dive in the rich waters. Across the Sea of Maluku, investigate the waters of Bunaken National Marine Park, a World Heritage Site protecting thousands of bird, coral and fish species. *Note: Voyages I and II may be combined for a reduced fee.*



© Thomas Baechhold

Voyage II: Manado to Bali

March 2 - 18, 2010 Price from \$9,380 Limit 20

Orchid-shaped Sulawesi is home to a phenomenal variety of flora, fauna and marine life — as well as some of the most fascinating cultures in the world. Expedition highlights include Bunaken Marine Park, home to nearly 70 percent of all fish species known to the Indo-western Pacific region; a visit to a nature reserve where we'll look for crested black macaques and *cus cus*, small rodent-like animals; and the Togeian Islands, an equatorial paradise of dense jungle, coral reefs and isolated atolls. In the highlands of Toraja, view the unique boat-shaped architecture and cliffside graves marked by life-sized effigies. Walk in Komodo National Park, watching for the world's largest lizard, the Komodo dragon, and snorkel or dive in the Flores Sea. Bali's magical atmosphere pervades its verdant landscapes, temples and towns, and offers a fitting finale to this grand voyage.



© Natalia Baechhold



▲ West Papua, Indonesia

© Thomas Baechhold

Trips beyond Oregon

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Forests and Fjords: Alaska's Kenai Peninsula

July 17 - 25, 2010 Price \$4,600 Limit 11

Discover the wildly diverse maritime and montane habitats of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. From the Resurrection Bay town of Seward, we'll take a boat to the glaciers and seabird cliffs of Kenai Fjords National Park (*below*), accompanied by sea otters, Dall's porpoises and — with luck — orcas and humpback whales. During our drive to the Kachemak Bay town of Homer, we'll explore the Kenai Mountains on a short raft trip. Next, we'll venture across Cook Inlet on a grizzly bear viewing fly-and-hike day trip, boat to the south side of the bay to walk intertidal and forest trails, and spend an evening in the artist village of Halibut Cove. Hikes to Exit Glacier and a Nature Conservancy Aleutian tern colony, plus a visit to the Alaska SeaLife Center, round out this nine-day natural history adventure. (\$300)



© Aaron Lang

Sea of Cortez Wildlife Cruise

March 21 - 28, 2010 Price from \$1,900 Limit 14

Experience the incredible thrill of seeing blue whales, Earth's largest living creatures, in Baja's Sea of Cortez. Encounter schools of dolphins along the way, and several whale species including humpback, sperm, finback, minke, pilot and orca. Enjoy daily land excursions to remote desert islands with 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*.



© Baja Expeditions, Inc.

Rafting the Northwest



Rafting the Umpqua River

July 14 - 15, 2010 Price \$510 Limit 17

Set amidst the wilderness areas and national forests of Southern Oregon's Cascades, the North Umpqua is one of the most beautiful rivers in the Northwest. Towering Douglas-fir forests line this steep and rugged canyon, shading the crystal clear water as it leaps and falls through steep gorges and boulder-strewn rapids. With 25 significant rapids and numerous smaller ones within 25 miles, the Umpqua delivers a truly fun and enjoyable paddle rafting experience. Lodging is at the famous Steamboat Inn.



Rafting the Middle Fork of Idaho's Salmon River

August 25 - 29, 2010 Price \$1,615 Limit 21

Raft the Salmon River's famous Middle Fork — the "Crown Jewel of the National Wild and Scenic River System" — which offers 100 roadless, motorless river miles through the largest mountain wilderness in the lower 48. The Middle Fork offers some of the best whitewater in North America as it splashes past numerous cultural sites and hot springs. Blue ribbon dry fly fishing for cutthroat trout provides catch and release opportunities for beginners and experienced anglers alike. *Note: \$100 flight fee applies.*

Rafting the Deschutes River

August 4 - 6, 2010 Price \$635 Limit 12

Flowing out of the Cascade Mountains of Central Oregon, the Deschutes River carves its way through the high desert, forming a spectacular canyon before finishing its journey at the Columbia River. Scenery treats you to majestic rocky canyons, a lush riparian zone alive with a variety of birds, and famous fishing waters teeming with rainbow trout. Join us for three wonderful days of sun and fun while learning about conservation issues surrounding this amazing river. Our journey will include time for hiking and exploration, as well as morning and evening opportunities for redbreast rainbow trout fishing.



© Ouzel Outfitters

A Message from Rudy

Dear Friends and Fellow Travelers,

I am happy to present you with this exciting list of natural history excursions for 2010! The Nature Conservancy in Oregon has been creating remarkable 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

Our feature trip visits one of Africa's most acclaimed game reserves, the Masai Mara, where we'll view lions, elephants, cheetahs, wildebeests, giraffes and more. On the other side of the world, we'll visit Alaska's magnificent Kenai Peninsula, and see the glaciers of Kenai Fjords National Park, raft through the Kenai Mountains, and witness grizzlies in their natural habitat.

We also have three spectacular cruises this year. Enjoy a whale watching excursion in the Sea of Cortez, or choose one of our unique tours through Indonesia. Voyage I travels from Port Moresby to Manado via Raja Ampat, Earth's most biodiverse spot. Voyage II is from Manado to Bali, with stops at Bunaken Marine and Komodo National parks.

If you're a birder, we have many exciting opportunities for you. See hundreds of bald eagles in the Klamath Basin, or search for Mexican jays, roadrunners and green kingfishers in Texas' Big Bend National Park. You are also invited to visit one of the best birding locations in the country, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

In addition, we have a host of rafting trips to beat the summer heat. Discover Idaho's Middle Fork of the Salmon River, where beautiful scenery mixes with great fishing opportunities. Raft the exciting Umpqua River in Southwest Oregon, or explore the Deschutes River's rocky canyons, notable fishing spots, and memorable high desert views.

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 their friends with educational vacations that inspire a commitment to conservation. Participants can reconnect with and reignite their love for the natural world. Through these trips, we hope 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 around the world.

If you have any questions, please call me at 503 802-8170, or send an e-mail to excursions@tnc.org. You may also visit our Web site, nature.org/travel, to view each trip's detailed brochure. I hope you can join us for an adventure in 2010!

Rudy Dietz, field trip program manager

To receive detailed itineraries for one or more of our natural history excursions, please complete the inquiry form at support.nature.org/travel.

Questions?

Contact Rudy Dietz at The Nature Conservancy
821 SE 14th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97214
Phone: 503 802-8170 E-mail: excursions@tnc.org
Web: nature.org/travel

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.

George Baetjer is an experienced naturalist with photography credits including two decades teaching college and community education courses and publication in several calendars, books and *Oregon Coast Magazine*. George will be an insightful guide during your walking tour of California's redwoods.

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



BAJA EXPEDITIONS



and geology combine to make your Klamath Basin and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge trips memorable birding opportunities.

Hughes River Expeditions, Inc. has been guiding rafters on Idaho rivers for almost three decades. With an impressive combined experience of nearly 70 years, husband and wife owners Jerry Hughes and Carole Finely have outfitted and led trips for organizations including the National Geographic Society, the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society.

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 Umpqua and Deschutes rivers.



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.



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 Kenai Peninsula.



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 two awe-inspiring cruises through Indonesia.

