

# SOUTHWEST OREGON

BIRDS, BOTANY, AND GEOLOGY



May 6 - 10, 2022



*Wild* **LATITUDES**  
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

# SOUTHWEST OREGON

## BIRDS, BOTANY, AND GEOLOGY

Greetings, fellow nature lover!

We invite you to join Wild Latitudes on a natural history exploration of Southwest Oregon.

This rugged region is dominated by the Klamath Mountains and the southern Cascades. Wild rivers like the Rogue, Illinois, and Applegate cut steep canyons through ancient bedrock here.

The region's unique geology has promoted a rich diversity of plant life, including endemic wildflowers and the world's greatest number of coniferous tree species. We'll be on the lookout for beautiful and fascinating plants like the Scarlet Fritillary, California Groundcone, Stream Orchid, and the carnivorous Cobra Lily.

The oak woodlands and coniferous forests are home to many bird species. We'll visit birding hotspots in the Klamath Mountains to search for woodpeckers, warblers, sparrows, and much more. We'll also cross the Cascades to go birding for a day in the rich wetlands of Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge.

Our explorations will involve some pleasant hiking through forests and river canyons. These will be less than 3 miles each, but note that the trails are sometimes rocky, uneven, and moderately steep.

Our home base for this 5-day tour will be the charming town of Jacksonville, and we'll be sure to take some time to stroll the streets of nearby Ashland.

We hope you'll join us in Southwest Oregon, to experience the wealth of biodiversity in this special region.

We are opening this tour exclusively to members of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, so if you're interested, **please contact the GGAS Travel Desk at [travelprogram@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:travelprogram@goldengateaudubon.org)**



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

### TRIP DETAILS

**Start Date:** May 6, 2022

**Duration of Tour:** 5 days

**Number of participants:** Max of 12

**Price of Tour:** \$1,695 per person

**Deposit:** \$850

**Single Supplement:** \$450

**Included:**

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

**Not Included:**

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



The Illinois River

## ITINERARY

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

### Day 1 - May 6 - Arrive in Medford, Oregon

Our adventure begins with our arrival at Medford Airport. Time allowing, we'll drive a short distance to visit a local birding hotspot outside of town. Then we head to Jacksonville, our home base for the trip. Jacksonville is a charming, historic mining town, nestled in the foothills of the Siskiyou Mountains (a sub-range of the Klamath Mountains). After settling into our hotel, we'll have a brief orientation chat and then head out for some light hiking and birding in the nearby forest. We'll then gather before dinner to begin filling in our bird and wildlife checklists.

Lodging: Wine Country Inn, Jacksonville

### Day 2 - May 7 - Birding at Botanizing Along the Illinois River

Today we'll start off by walking (on boardwalks and hiking trails) along the wild and scenic Illinois River. We'll look for birds and fascinating plants in the Eight Dollar Mountain Botanical Area. This is one of the most ecologically significant areas for plants

# SOUTHWEST OREGON

May 6 - 10, 2022

in the whole U.S.! Heavy metals present in the serpentine soils here strongly influence the mixture of plant species.

Some birds we expect to see include **American Dipper**, **Common Merganser**, **Bushtit**, and **White-breasted Nuthatch**. We'll have a picnic lunch then stop at one or more birding locations—such as China Gulch—as we work our way back to Jacksonville.

Lodging: Wine Country Inn, Jacksonville

## Day 3 - May 8 - Hiking the Rogue River

We head north today to the world-famous Rogue River. We'll take a slow-paced hike along the rocky river canyon (about 3 miles), to take in the scenery and investigate the local birds and plants. Examples of birds we may encounter include **Yellow Warbler**, **Cassin's Vireo**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and **Pacific Wren**.

Besides oaks, pines, and elegant Madrone trees, botanical highlights here include wildflowers like Henderson's Tritelia, Yellowleaf Iris, Cliff Maids, and Farewell-to-Spring.

We'll stop to enjoy sack lunches along the trail. After our hike we'll visit one or more birding hotspots like the Hellgate Canyon Viewpoint and Whitehorse County Park.

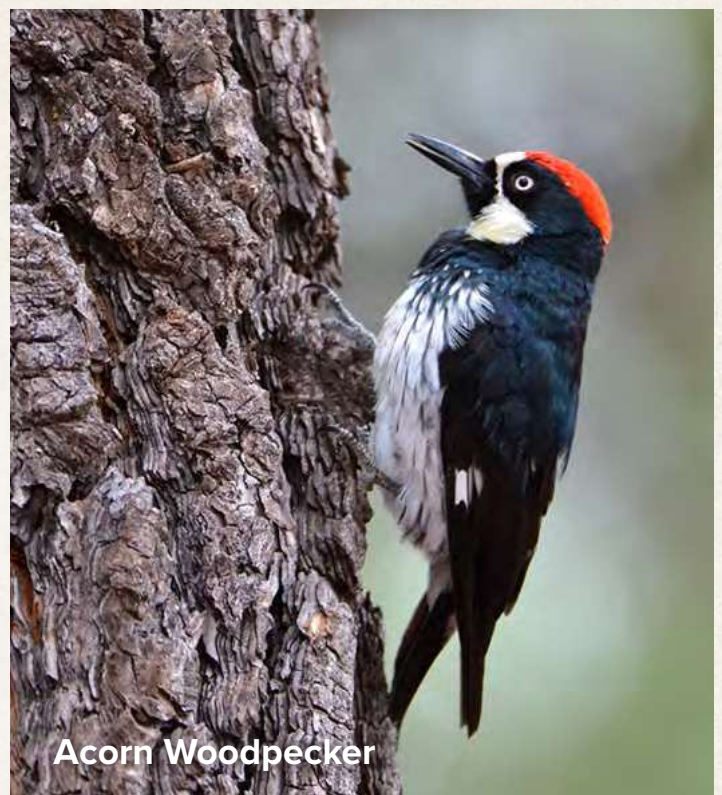
Lodging: Wine Country Inn, Jacksonville



Hiking Along the Rogue River



Cliff Maids (*Lewisia cotyledon*)



Acorn Woodpecker

# SOUTHWEST OREGON

May 6 - 10, 2022

## Day 4 - May 9 - Klamath Marsh and Ashland

We get an early start and venture east today, over the Cascade Range to Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. The wetlands, grasslands, and pine forests here support a huge number of individual birds of many species.

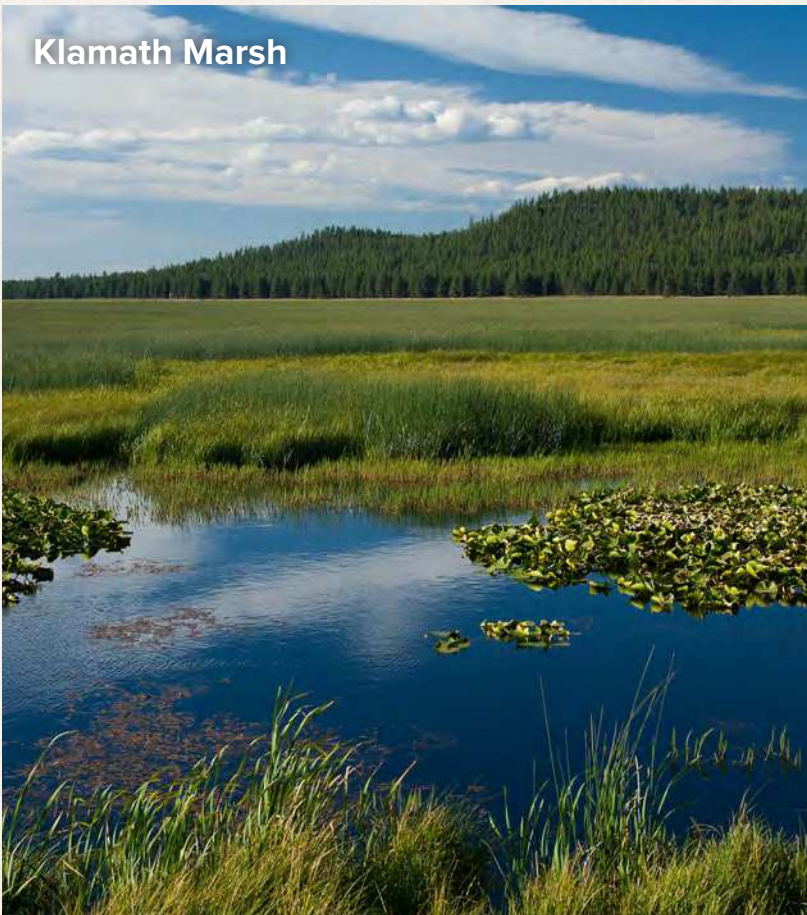


MacGillivray's Warbler

We'll drive the refuge and make stops to look for birds like **Western Grebe, Sandhill Crane, Black-necked Stilt, Franklin's Gull, White-faced Ibis, Black-billed Magpie,** and **Yellow-headed Blackbird.**

We'll sit down for lunch in town before returning west over the mountains. Time allowing, we'll make a stop to survey a higher elevation birding location. Birds of interest here include **Mountain Quail, Mountain Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Mountain Chickadee, Green-tailed Towhee,** and **Cassin's Finch.**

## Klamath Marsh



On the way back to our lodge we'll stop in Ashland. You'll have some time to stroll the streets of this artistic town (famous for its annual Shakespeare Festival) before we enjoy our last dinner together. We'll go over our bird and wildlife lists one last time to make sure they're complete.

Lodging: [Wine Country Inn, Jacksonville](#)

## Day 5 - May 10 - Departure

After breakfast and checking out of our hotel, we may have time to make one last birding stop before heading to the airport. There we'll say our goodbyes and wrap up our exploration of Southwest Oregon.

## YOUR GUIDES

### IVAN PHILLIPSEN

Ivan is a dedicated 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. As Co-owner of Wild Latitudes, Ivan has been able to apply his knowledge in crafting and leading ecotours around the world.

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 he 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. A summer's job became a life's passion, and since 2005 Emily has worked at ten National Parks across the west. As a naturalist, she shared her love of wild places with visitors at the Grand Canyon, Sequoia, Hawaii Volcanoes, Organ Pipe Cactus and Haleakala. She has also worked in the backcountry as an EMT and wilderness ranger patrolling Big Bend, Zion and Yosemite.



In 2008 Emily arrived at a park which would forever change the direction of her life: Glacier Bay National Park in southeast Alaska. Through five seasons of work as an Alaska ranger naturalist, Emily fell in love with southeast's vibrant ecosystem, dynamic landscape and thriving coastal communities. She began working as a naturalist and photo instructor for Lindblad Expeditions in 2013. Today Emily also works as a freelance photographer, environmental writer, silk painter, and illustrator. Her work has been published in *Alaska*, *National Parks*, *Orion*, *Sierra*, *Landscape Photography*, and other magazines and newspapers. develop curiosity, connection and comfort in wild places.

# 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 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

When you're ready to sign up for the tour, please let us know by doing one of the following:

- Send us an email at [info@wildlatitudes.com](mailto:info@wildlatitudes.com)
- Call us at 503-714-3504

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 with a credit card can be done with our online form or by calling: 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.

---

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

---

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:

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 the start of the tour, full refunds—minus the cost of any internal/in-country airline tickets purchased and/or any non-refundable deposits or expenses already made by Wild Latitudes—will be given to all participants. In the event that the tour is canceled while underway due to unforeseeable 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.

---