

# OREGON COAST

BIRDING THE ROCKY SHORES AND TEMPERATE RAINFORESTS

Sep 29 - Oct 5, 2024



*Wild* **LATITUDES**  
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

# OREGON COAST

## BIRDING THE ROCKY SHORES AND TEMPERATE RAINFORESTS

Join us for this week-long birding adventure on the majestic Oregon Coast!

Our journey will take us through diverse ecosystems, from beautiful beaches to lush forests, as we explore the region's diversity of resident and migratory birds.

We begin the tour in Portland, and head off along the course of the **Columbia River**, down to where it meets the sea. There, we'll settle in for two nights in the historic seaside town of **Astoria**. There are great birding spots in the area, as well as some fascinating historical sites.

Then we head south to **Cannon Beach**, a charming coastal town known as a haven for artists. This is also where we'll get to visit the world famous **Haystack Rock**. This towering monolith is often surrounded by flocks of seabirds. The tidepools at the rock are teeming with a wild diversity of intertidal life.

**Tillamook Bay** and the town of **Garibaldi** await us further south. We'll have excellent opportunities for birding in this region, in diverse habitats including beaches, wetlands, temperate rainforests, and rocky headlands.

Our final two nights will be spent in **Newport**. We'll go birding in the rich estuary here, as well as visit a picturesque lighthouse and the world-class **Oregon Coast Aquarium**.

Along our journey, we'll enjoy not only many wonderful birds, but also delicious food, beautiful coastal scenery, historic sites, and great camaraderie.

We are opening this tour exclusively to members of the Golden Gate Bird Alliance, so if you're interested, please contact **GGBA** at [travelprogram@goldengatebirds.org](mailto:travelprogram@goldengatebirds.org)

## TRIP DETAILS

**Start Date:** Sep 29, 2024

**Duration of Tour:** 7 days

**Number of participants:** Max of 12

**Fee for Tour:** \$2,395 per person

**Deposit:** \$1,200

**Single Supplement:** \$495

**Trip Leaders:** Ivan Phillipson, Steve Robertson

### Included:

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

### Not Included:

- Flights
- Dinners
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal items
- Optional gratuities for guides



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

[info@wildlatitudes.com](mailto:info@wildlatitudes.com) 503-714-3504

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## ITINERARY

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

### Day 1 - Sep 29 - Portland to Astoria

Our adventure begins when your Wild Latitudes guides, Ivan Phillipsen & Steve Robertson, welcome you at the Portland International Airport. After brief introductions, we'll head to the coast, getting in a bit of birding along the way if time allows, before arriving at **Astoria**. This charming coastal town is located just inland of the mouth of the mighty Columbia River, and is steeped in a rich history—from the Native American Clatsop people, to Lewis and Clark, to its heyday as a fishing and canning community. Weather permitting, we plan to visit the **Astoria Column**... a wonderful tower that provides stunning views of Astoria, the Columbia River, and the Pacific Ocean beyond.

We'll check into our lodge, then gather for an orientation, before enjoying dinner in town. Each evening we'll go over our bird list, recording the species we saw that day, either before or after having dinner.

Lodging: [Lloyd Hotel, Astoria](#)

To register for this tour, email GGBA at [travelprogram@goldengatebirds.org](mailto:travelprogram@goldengatebirds.org)

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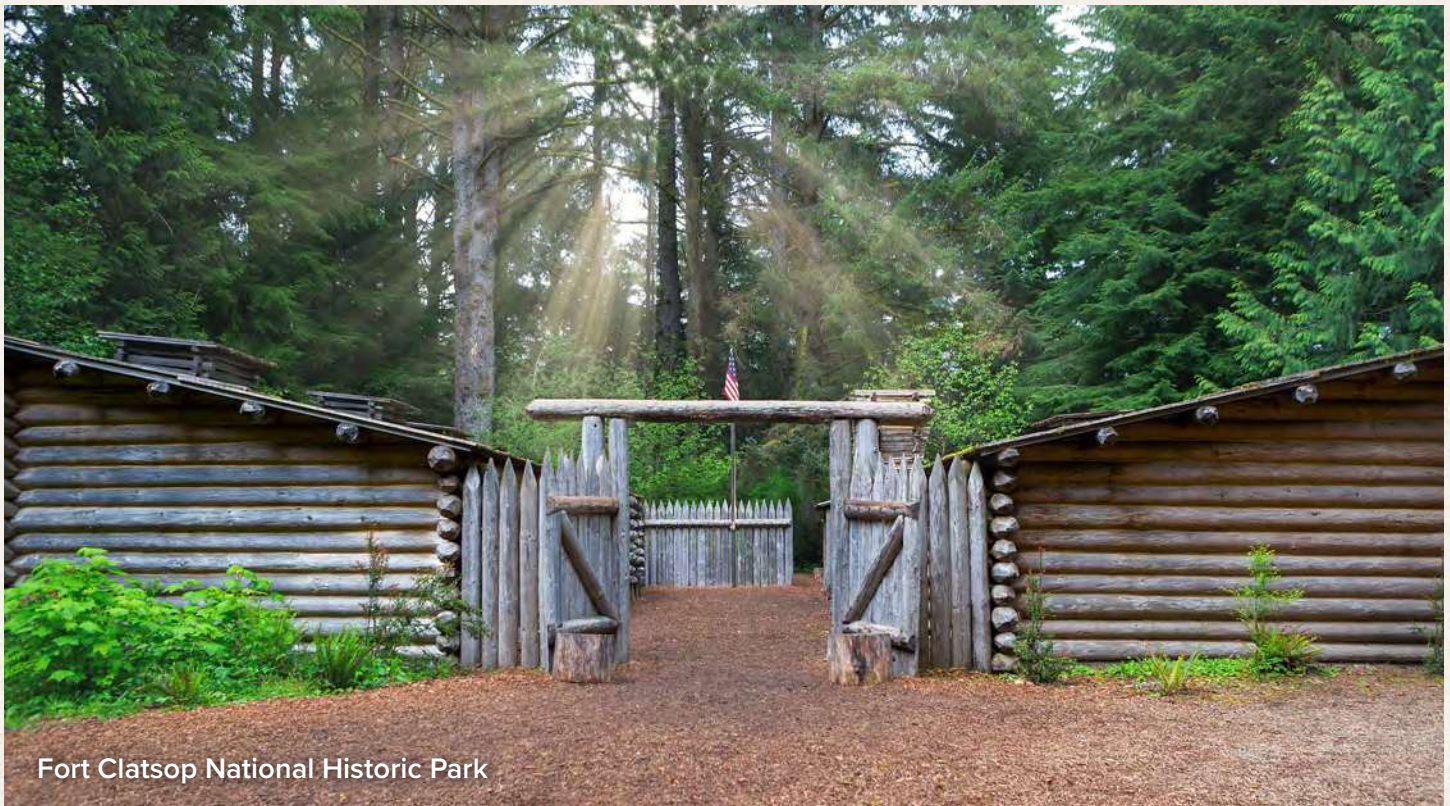
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## Day 2 - Sep 30 - Birding Coastal Forests, Fort Clatsop, & More

After breakfast, our day begins with a visit to **Fort Stevens State Park**, located in Oregon's far northwest corner, near the mouth of the Columbia River. We'll be birding here all morning as the park hosts several habitat types: spruce and hemlock forests, wetlands, dunes, and shore pine areas. Many bird species are possible here, including **Bald Eagle, Western Grebe, Snowy Plover, Least Sandpiper, Peregrine Falcon, Steller's Jay, and Red Crossbill.**

Migration will be in full swing along the Pacific Coast, so we'll be on the lookout for birds heading south across the mouth of the Columbia. Migrants we hope to encounter include **Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Red Phalarope, Heermann's Gull, Sooty Shearwater, Lapland Longspur, and Western Meadowlark,** just to name a few.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee



Fort Clatsop National Historic Park

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In the afternoon, we'll visit **Fort Clatsop**, a replica of the fort built by the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The site also has an excellent Interpretive Center that details this fascinating journey into the Pacific NW. Depending on the length of our visit here, we may also have time to visit Astoria's impressive **Maritime Museum**. After dinner and the bird list, you should have a little time to stroll the quaint streets of Astoria on your own before calling it a night.

Lodging: [Lloyd Hotel, Astoria](#)

## Day 3 - Oct 1 - South to Cannon Beach

After another hearty breakfast, we'll load up and head south along the coast toward **Cannon Beach**, stopping along the way to do some birding at **Seaside Cove**. This is a great place to look for **Harlequin Duck**, **White-winged Scoter**, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Black Turnstone**, **Surfbird**, multiple gull species, and loons—**Red-throated**, **Pacific**, and **Common**.

After lunch in Cannon Beach, we'll take in the amazing views from **Ecola State Park**, overlooking the town of Cannon Beach, the Tillamook Lighthouse, and the impressive



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Temperate Rainforest

**Haystack Rock.** We'll check into our lodge, then bird at least one more local hotspot before everyone gets a little free time to enjoy this attractive seaside town. We'll get together for drinks and the bird list in the evening before heading to dinner.

Lodging: [Haystack Inn, Cannon Beach](#)

## Day 4 - Oct 2 - Cannon Beach and South to Tillamook Bay

This morning we'll focus our attention on birding **Haystack Rock**, a 235-foot-tall monolith that dominates the intertidal zone at Cannon Beach. The tidepools here harbor an abundance & amazing diversity of marine species: a host of Echinoderms, Mollusks, Arthropods, Crustaceans, Porifera, Vertebrates and more can all be found thriving in the tidepools here! Weather & tides permitting, we'll offer an optional pre-breakfast visit to explore the tidepools to see how many phyla we can find represented here.

After breakfast, we'll all enjoy a walk on the beach as we head out to bird Haystack Rock. We hope to see **Black Oystercatcher, Common Murre, Brown Pelican, Harlequin Duck, Pigeon Guillemot**, and with luck, all three species of cormorants are possible here- **Brandt's, Pelagic, and Double-crested.**

After leaving Cannon Beach, we continue south, planning to stop at an iconic Oregon

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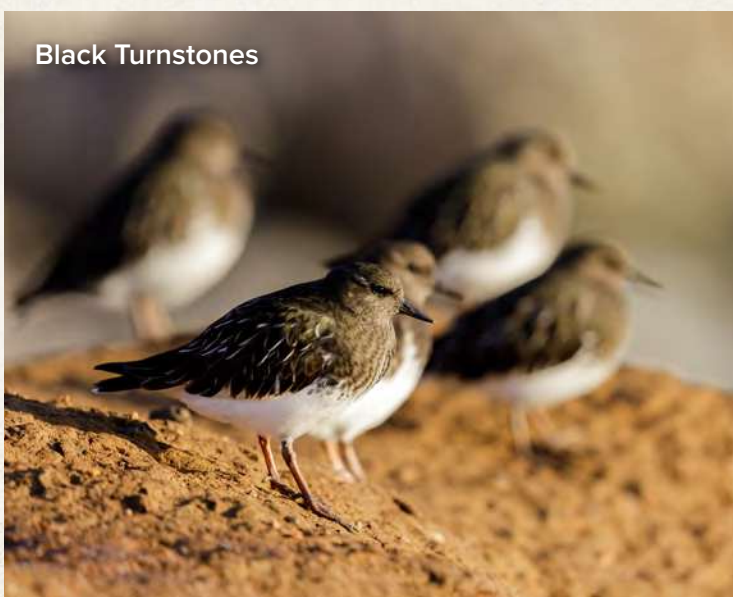
Coast Restaurant for lunch: **Mo's**, most famous for its clam chowder. After a delicious lunch, another highlight will be walking the trails of **Oswald West State Park**. Here, you'll experience the grandeur of Oregon's temperate rainforest ecosystem. There are some enormous, ancient trees here: **Western Hemlock, Sitka Spruce, and Western Red Cedar**... together creating a beautiful example of the lush forests that once covered the region. Birds we might find in this fern and moss-laden forest include **Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pacific Wren, and the American Dipper**.

Time allowing, we'll go birding in one or two other spots before reaching **Garibaldi**, a working fishing village that is our destination for the night. This small community sits at the northern edge of **Tillamook Bay**, where five rivers come together to feed the rich estuary. As always, we'll go through our bird list in the evening together before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant.

Lodging: [Garibaldi Hotel, Garibaldi](#)



Cannon Beach



Black Turnstones



Roosevelt Elk

To register for this tour, email GGBA at [travelprogram@goldengatebirds.org](mailto:travelprogram@goldengatebirds.org)

## Day 5 - Oct 3 - Birding Tillamook and Scenic Drive South

After breakfast, we set out to bird Tillamook Bay, an area that is well-visited by birders because of the high number of birding hotspots it contains. The “spit” is one such local birding hotspot, and we’ll spend a share of the morning there looking for species like **Horned Grebe**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Wrentit**, **Fox Sparrow**, and many duck species. Time permitting, we may be able to bird the Barview Jetty, Miami Cove, and the **Cape Meares Lighthouse**.

Then it’s time for lunch and a stop for some delicious, locally made Tillamook ice-cream. Driving south from Tillamook along Highway 101, we’ll make stops along the way to take in the beautiful scenery of Oregon’s coast. Of course, we’ll keep an eye out for any interesting birds along the way.

We’ll arrive in Newport in the late afternoon, hopefully giving everyone some free time to walk along and experience its historic bayfront. We’ll meet for drinks and to do our birdlist before having dinner in town.

Lodging: [The Embarcadero Resort, Newport](#)

## Our Commitment to Conservation

On every Wild Latitudes tour, we aim to make a positive conservation impact wherever we travel. We 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.



Marbled Murrelet in non-breeding plumage



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## Day 6 - Oct 4 - Newport

We have a full day to enjoy the area around **Newport**. First, we'll visit the picturesque **Yaquina Head Lighthouse**, completed in 1873. This site overlooking black basalt cliffs is offers excellent birding. We'll scan the rocks and waves for birds like **Black Scoter**, **Pigeon Guillemot**, **Marbled Murrelet**, **Rhinoceros Auklet**, and **Pink-footed Shearwater**, and more.

We may have time for a pleasant stroll on nearby **Agate Beach** before heading to lunch. Afterward, it's time for more birding! We'll walk the **Yaquina Bay Estuary Trail**, an area that provides winter habitat for many waterfowl species, including **Brant**, **Northern Pintail**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Bufflehead**, and **Hooded Merganser**. Other birds we might see on the Estuary Trail are **Marbled Godwit**, **Western Sandpiper**, **Merlin**, **Marsh Wren**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Lincoln's Sparrow**.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll visit the world-class **Oregon Coast Aquarium**, second on the west coast only to the aquarium at Monterey bay. Then it's time for our final meeting to fill in our bird list and enjoy each other's company. We'll have one last dinner together in Newport.

Lodging: [The Embarcadero Resort, Newport](#)



Yaquina Head Lighthouse

## Day 7 - Oct 5 - Departures

Today, we leave Newport and the Oregon coast behind as we head inland. This is mostly a travel day getting back to Portland. But we'll stop to stretch our legs here and there and get in a little birding if we can.

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Once in Portland, we'll make an airport drop-off for those of you heading directly home. For anyone staying in Portland to extend their personal travels, we will offer a drop-off downtown. It's time for farewells as our wonderful trip comes to a close.



Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach

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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## YOUR GUIDES

### STEVE ROBERTSON

A true lover of the natural world, Steve Robertson has been a student of nature his entire life. First, as a little boy, who caught every creature he could for the mini zoo he kept in the garage, then later as an adult, leading scientific research expeditions into some of the most remote regions of the world, searching for rare species in such places as Tasmania, Madagascar, and the upper Amazon Basin.

He is the Co-owner of Wild Latitudes. With degrees in Wildlife Biology, advanced biology & education, Steve has worked in the field of Environmental Education for over 30 years. From 1998 to 2017, he served as the Education Director for the Audubon Society of Portland, creating a number of innovative programs including International Ecotours, a program that has won hundreds of accolades from around the country. During his time with Audubon, Steve personally designed and led ecotours to over 20 countries, spanning six continents.



### 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 Madagascar, Ecuador, Mexico, Spain, 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.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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## 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

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 can be made over the phone with a credit card: 971-361-4629. *Note:* there is an additional 3.0% fee for credit card payments. This is only what we are charged by the credit card company.

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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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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.

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