



Cloud Ridge Naturalists

FIELD DISCOVERY SEMINARS

A WORD ABOUT US

Cloud Ridge Naturalists is one of the oldest and most respected nonprofit field schools in the West. Over the past twenty-nine years, several thousand people have experienced the special blend of education and exploration that Cloud Ridge offers. Our commitment to providing the finest in natural history education and environmentally responsible travel remains the cornerstone of our program. Just a glance through the biographies of our leaders should convey the excellence of our faculty—their knowledge, enthusiasm, and talent for teaching are unsurpassed. Field seminar groups are small and congenial, creating the best possible atmosphere for learning. Our days are spent in some of the world's most beautiful wilderness areas. We take your comfort, safety, and enjoyment seriously—even in the most remote field settings. Wherever we travel, and by whatever means—expedition ship, boat, raft, sea kayak, or on foot—we work only with outfitters whose environmental ethics and operating principals parallel ours. We select fine lodgings or picturesque campsites that have a strong sense of place, and we make every effort to live up to our legendary reputation for excellent food. Not surprisingly, more than 80% of our participants each year have traveled with us before. That matters to us! We strive to be the best—at whatever we do.

FROM THE DIRECTORS' DESK

Today, more than ever before, the places Cloud Ridge travels to are chosen because they are at greatest risk—the Arctic regions, the marine and island ecosystems of the North Pacific and the North Atlantic, the Antarctic and the Southern Polar Ocean, the temperate rainforests of the Pacific Northwest and their counterparts in the Patagonian Andes, and the West's wilderness rivers.

The Earth is in crisis—the far-reaching impacts of human-caused global warming, overpopulation, pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation, and our profound failure to protect the diversity of life are transforming even the most remote corners of our planet. From its inception, in 1979, Cloud Ridge Naturalists has focused its efforts on natural history education and on providing opportunities for enriching our understanding of the complex interrelationships that govern the natural world. The future depends on informed, passionate citizen advocates for wilderness conservation and biological diversity. Wherever we travel, our itineraries always reflect a holistic, multidisciplinary perspective. Because we also recognize the powerful role that conservation writers, photographers, and other artists play in environmental education and advocacy, we offer seminars that enable participants to hone these skills as well. Whatever your interests, each of our trips opens a magical window on the natural world!





**THE HIGH ANDES TO THE HIGH SEAS:
A TRANS-ANDEAN EXPEDITION TO THE
NATIONAL PARKS OF NORTHWESTERN
ARGENTINA, THE ATACAMA DESERT,
AND EASTER ISLAND**

March 19-April 9, 2008 22 Days/21 Nights
**Carol and Carlos Passera, Barbara Knapton,
and Audrey Benedict**

Few journeys can compare with the spectacular landscapes and natural and cultural diversity we'll experience as we travel the ancient **Inca Road** (the *Ohapag-Nan*) across the high Andes of Argentina and Chile. This extraordinary expedition will explore several of the most important of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites, beginning in the Andean altiplano and Yungas cloudforests of northwestern Argentina (**Los Cordones National Park** and **Calilegua National Park**) and continuing on to embrace the stark beauty of Chile's **Atacama Desert** and the volcano-dotted wonderland of **Lauca National Park**. We'll conclude this once-in-a-lifetime journey with four days spent exploring one of the most hauntingly beautiful places on Earth—the Chilean outpost of **Easter Island**.

We begin our journey in northwestern Argentina, with a flight from **Buenos Aires** to the colonial city of **Salta**, with its dramatic backdrop of 16,000-foot peaks. Exploring the saguaro-like cactus forests of **Los Cordones National Park**, we'll travel the unpaved road that climbs to 11,000 feet and then drops down into the unique forests of the **Tin-Tin** and the exquisitely beautiful **Valle Encantado**. We'll be continually watching for wildlife—herds of guanacos, Andean condors, Aplomado falcons, Andean foxes, mountain vizcachas (members of the chinchilla family), and birds such as the red-tailed comet and the giant hummingbird, to name just a few.

Leaving the cactus forests of the Andean Altiplano, we'll shift our attention to the mist-shrouded, epiphyte-laden Yungas cloudforests preserved within the **Reserva del Huaico** and **Calilegua National Park**. Among the most threatened of all Andean forest ecosystems, the Yungas cloudforests occupy only 2% of Argentina but support nearly 50% of the country's biodiversity—colorful subtropical species such as the black-and-chestnut eagle, golden-collared macaw, blue-crowned trogon, plush-crested jay, and red-throated dipper. We'll walk forest trails looking for mammal tracks and, hopefully, for a glimpse of the elusive jaguar, a troop of capuchin monkeys, northern Andean deer, tapirs, crab-eating foxes, or the rare little “marsupial” frog that broods its young in a pouch.

Our route continues along the Camino Inca, through the colorful valley known as the **Quebrada de Humahuaca** (a World Heritage Site) and on to the archaeological site of **Pucara de Tilcara**. The mountain villages that dot the hill-sides here remind us that we are in the heartland of the hardy Quechua Indians—the realm of Pachamama, the “earth goddess.” Traveling over Jama Pass, we'll pass colorful cliffs, puna grasslands, and deep-blue lagoons—always watching for vicuñas, the delicate little cousin of the llama, brush-tailed vizcachas, the highland tuco-tuco, and possibly even the rare Andean cat, which resembles a miniature snow leopard.

Arriving at the oasis of **San Pedro de Atacama**, we'll see before us the spectacular moonscape of the **Atacama Desert**, a vast expanse stretching 600 miles from northern Chile to Peru's southern border. We'll spend several days exploring the Atacama's natural and geologic wonders as well

as the archaeological treasures left behind by pre-Inca and Inca cultures. Set against a backdrop of 20,000-ft. high, snow-capped volcanoes, the Atacama Desert is considered the driest place on earth. Except during rare El Niño years, the only consistent moisture comes from the dense coastal fog, the *camanchaca*. This life-giving fog nourishes unique plant communities called *lomas*, which contain a surprising diversity of plants. Near Chungungo, human “fog-catchers” string fine-meshed nets directly in the path of the *camanchaca*, capturing what moisture condenses on the nets and diverting it to their village. A visit to **Salar de Atacama** and **Chaxa Lagoon** will reward us with superb looks at all three species of South American flamingos: Chilean, Andean, and the rare Puna. Traveling up to 13,800 feet to experience the eruption of the **El Tatio** geysers will add one more stunning contrast to our journey.

After flying to **Arica**, we’ll enjoy our beachfront resort and bird along the rocky coastline for elegant and Inca terns, gray gulls, Peruvian pelicans and boobies, the Chilean woodstar, the oasis hummingbird, and many other species. Driving on to **Putre**, which was founded in 1580, we’ll visit the **Museo Arqueológico San Miguel**, where the pre-Inca mummies from the Atacama are on exhibit, and the huge geoglyph site near **San Miguel de Azapa**. Wherever we look, ancient lineages are reflected in the faces and in the bright wool ponchos and shawls of the indigenous residents. Our final three days on the mainland will be spent exploring one of South America’s most spectacular parks—**Lauca National Park**. The 19,700-ft high volcanoes Parinacota and Pomerate and the emerald waters of **Laguna Cotacotani** and **Lago Chungará** dominate the alpine landscape here. Lago Chungará, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and one of the highest lakes in the world, teems with unusual wildlife—giant coots, Andean geese, puna ibis, the flightless tagua-tagua, puna snipe, torrent ducks, and all three species of flamingos.

Easter Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the most haunting and mysterious places on earth. Located 2,300 miles west of the Chilean coast, this volcano-dotted island is the most remote inhabited island in the world. The mysteries of Easter Island and its indigenous inhabitants, the Rapanui, have intrigued archaeologists and travelers for centuries. The famous voyage of Thor Heyerdahl’s raft, *Kon-Tiki*, focused world attention on the gigantic stone statues, or *moai*, which

can be seen all over the island. Most of the stone statues (and there are hundreds) depict a highly-stylized male torso and head, some topped with a huge red stone cylinder, and standing about 15 to 20 feet tall; the largest is 70 feet tall and weighs about 270 tons. Organizing the carving, transport, and erection of these immense statues required a complex, populous society living in an environment rich enough to support it. Archaeologists now believe that Easter Island was colonized around A.D. 900 by Polynesians from the Marquesa Islands or Mangareva. We’ll spend four fascinating days touring Easter Island, visiting all of the island’s important archaeological sites. The environmental lessons of Easter Island—overpopulation, resource depletion and deforestation, warfare, famine, cannibalism, and cultural collapse—are especially troubling. We have taken great care to plan an amazing expedition and encourage you to register without delay!

Price: \$8,450 (includes a \$1000 deposit)

Group Size: 14 Trip Rating: 3

Price Includes: expert naturalist and archaeological guides throughout, 21 nights’ lodging, all internal flights (Buenos Aires to Salta, Antofagasta to Arica, and Arica to Santiago), the roundtrip 5-hour flight to Easter Island from Santiago, all ground transportation (van and small bus), all meals, all park entrance fees, and all gratuities. Does not include alcohol, items of a personal nature, or roundtrip transportation from your home airport (to Buenos Aires on March 19 and returning from Santiago on April 9).

WILD OCEAN MISTS: A NATURALIST’S VOYAGE TO GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK AND LITUYA BAY

May 11-22, 2008

Dr. Geoff Hammerson, Audrey Benedict, Kimber Owen and the *M/V Sea Wolf* Crew

Imagine **Glacier Bay** as John Muir saw it in 1899, as a member of the legendary Harriman Expedition—without the cruise ships, the guidebooks, and interpretive signs that define the modern visitor’s experience. Aboard the *M/V Sea Wolf*, a 97-foot vintage wooden boat, we’ll have the chance to see this spectacular glacier and fjord landscape in much the same way that Harriman’s scientists did. Unlike the big cruise ships, *M/V Sea Wolf* is trim enough to explore the narrowest of fjords and shallow coastal waters. She carries twelve pas-

sengers and a crew of five—the perfect size for a voyage such as ours. Best of all, *Sea Wolf* carries a full complement of sea kayaks and a motorized inflatable to enable exploration both far and wide. For those who take paddle in hand, the use of sea kayaks allows a more intimate, seal's eye view of the tidewater glaciers, inlets, islets, and estuary streams that make this coastal wilderness one of North America's richest and most biologically diverse areas.

May is a magical time to be in **Glacier Bay National Park** because we have it largely to ourselves—just the bears, the first returning humpback whales, and the thousands of migrating shore and seabirds bound for Arctic nesting sites. Both Glacier Bay and Lituya are major stops on the Pacific Flyway. Against a backdrop of some of the most magnificent mountains on earth, rivers of glacial ice tumble into the sea and aquamarine-colored icebergs drift by on the tides. Responding to the boom and crash of ice at the glacier front, kittiwakes and Arctic terns swirl over the churning, welling waters in search of food. Western sandpipers and other shorebirds skitter along the shorelines, poking their bills into the food-rich mud and gravels of the intertidal zone. Sea ducks and enormous rafts of harlequin ducks forage in the quiet bays before making the final push to their nesting areas. Grizzlies and black bears, recently emerged from their hibernation dens, can be seen bending the branches of black cottonwoods down to feed on the sweetly-resinous leaf buds, grazing on swards of lush sedges, and scraping succulent barnacles and mussels from rocks along the water's edge. For wildlife, this is a time of plenty.

Along the wild, storm-battered coastline of the Gulf of Alaska, just south of the Tlingit village of Yakutat, a whale-shaped fjord—**Lituya Bay**—lies at the foot of the spectacular Fairweather Range. Nowhere else in the world do mountains tower so far above the sea. The only access to this legendary wilderness arm of Glacier Bay National Park is by small boat or seaplane—well beyond the capabilities of most Park visitors. Lituya Bay is situated at the confluence of three glaciers—the Lituya, the Cascade, and the North Crillon—and centered along a T-shaped epicenter of intense geologic activity known as the Fairweather Fault. Since 1899, nine earthquakes have rumbled across the region, toppling mountains and flaying this ice-carved land to its bedrock roots. In 1958, a

magnitude 8.3 earthquake centered on Cross Sound, located forty-five miles to the southeast, set the fjord into earth-wrenching motion. The collapse of an entire mountainside near the head of Lituya triggered a 1,740-foot tsunami-like wave. The wave completely decapitated the snout of Lituya Glacier, scoured all the trees from the walls of the fjord, and destroyed three fishing boats anchored in the bay. The swirling maelstrom took a tremendous toll on the bay's wildlife—sea-birds, fish, marine animals, whales, bears, and wolves. For humans, the quake was no less devastating. Despite its violent history, Lituya Bay offers some of the most spectacular wilderness to be found anywhere. Join us for this very special voyage of discovery!

Price: \$4,600 (includes a \$500 deposit)

Group Size: 12 Trip Rating: 3

Price Includes: 10 nights/10 days aboard the *M/V Sea Wolf*, comfortable cabins with private facilities, all meals and beverages, and one group dinner in Juneau, the services of a five-person crew and three naturalist leaders, a copy of *The Nature of Southeast Alaska*, one nights' lodging in Juneau (May 21), roundtrip/scenic charter float-plane flight (includes a 1 hr. 45 min. scenic tour) from Juneau to Gustavus and back, all boat/hotel transfers, full sea kayak outfitting and instruction, and gratuities to the *Sea Wolf* crew. Does not include roundtrip airfare to Juneau from your point of departure.

More information? Visit **Sea Wolf Adventures** at <http://www.seawolf-adventures.com> for pictures of the *M/V Sea Wolf*, the boat's layout, amenities, and crew biographies. For the adventure-bound, mobility-challenged traveler, the *M/V Sea Wolf* has been retrofitted for wheel chair accessibility and provides a lift between decks and full sea kayak support.



WILDERNESS IMAGES: AN ARTIST'S VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY TO SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S INSIDE PASSAGE

May 31-June 8, 2008 9 Days/ 8 Nights
Dr. Geoff Hammerson, Sarah Drummond, and Audrey Benedict

Few places in North America rival the scenic beauty and wildlife richness of **Southeast Alaska's Inside Passage**. Join us aboard the *M/V Catalyst*, a 75-foot classic wooden boat, for an 8-day voyage to the spectacular fjords, islands, and tidewater glaciers of **Frederick Sound, Thomas Bay, Endicott Arm, and Ford's Terror**. Humpback whales are often common here, attracted by the abundant food to be found in these protected waters. It is also possible to see Steller's sea lions, harbor seals, both black and brown bears, bald eagles, and a diversity of seabirds. Anchoring at the Brothers Islands provides opportunities for tidepool discoveries, superb sea kayaking, and magical hikes in pristine, *bear-free* rainforest.

Long before the camera became a standard piece of field equipment, expedition naturalists kept field journals in which to record their plant and animal discoveries. Even today, in the midst of the digital revolution, there are times when a photograph is simply a "snapshot." Keeping an illustrated field journal can greatly enrich your observational skills—whether your interests focus on plants or animals, or in all aspects of natural history. This boat-based workshop is designed to provide an overview of illustration techniques, using pencil, pen, and watercolor. Whether you are a naturalist wanting to learn to draw or an experienced artist interested in adding new techniques to your field repertoire, the opportunity for individualized instruction makes this an ideal workshop. Artists and non-artists alike will find a niche that satisfies their interests.

The *M/V Catalyst* was built in 1932 as a floating laboratory for the University of Washington. This "salty, historic treasure," with its mahogany interior and lace curtains, continues to be lovingly maintained and refurbished by its present owners, Bill and Shannon Bailey. The *Catalyst* carries twelve passengers and a crew of four. Mysteriously, the heartbeat of the *Catalyst's* 17,000-pound iron engine creates a bond that passengers find difficult to break at journey's end. Best of all, *Catalyst* carries a full complement of sea kayaks

and a motorized inflatable to enable explorations both far and wide. The use of sea kayaks allows a more intimate, seal's eye view of the inlets, islets and estuaries. Beginning sea kayakers will find it an easy, non-intimidating setting in which to learn. Feasting on a dinner of fresh-caught seafood and sharing the day's discoveries over a glass of wine, it's easy to conclude this is the best way to experience Southeast Alaska!

Price: \$3,750 (includes a \$500 deposit)

Group Size: 12 Trip Rating: 3

Price Includes: 6 nights/7 days aboard the *M/V Catalyst*, all meals and beverages, 2 nights' lodging (May 31 in **Petersburg** and June 7 in **Juneau**), two group dinners ashore, the services of a four-person crew and three naturalist leaders, full sea kayak outfitting and instruction, a copy of *The Nature of Southeast Alaska*, all boat/hotel transfers, and gratuities to the *Catalyst* crew. The price quoted is per person based on double occupancy; a single supplement of \$250 is required of passengers desiring non-shared hotel accommodations. Does not include airfare to Petersburg, Alaska from your point of departure or your return flight from Juneau.

Need more information? We'd be happy to send you a full color brochure or a DVD describing the *Catalyst*. Visit the **Pacific Catalyst** website for pictures of the boat, cabin details, interior spaces and amenities, and crew biographies.

www.pacificcatalyst.com

OF TIGER WALLS AND CANYON WRENS: A NATURALIST'S JOURNEY ON THE YAMPA AND GREEN RIVERS

June 15-21, 2008 7 Days/ 6 Nights
Audrey Benedict, Dr. Emmett Evanoff, Dr. Geoff Hammerson, Dr. Mike Scott, and Dr. Ed Wick

The Yampa is one of the premier wilderness rivers in North America—a world where life is written in water and history in rock. Gathering strength from its two main tributaries, the Elk and the Little Snake, the Yampa has carved a spectacular canyon through the eastern arm of Dinosaur National Monument. Our oar-powered raft journey begins at Deer Lodge Park, at the Monument's eastern edge. In the capable hands of our guides from Holiday River Expeditions and benefiting from the expertise of our remarkable team of

leaders, we'll spend five days exploring canyon worlds powered by the energy of the desert sun and shaped by the flow of a river that still dances to its ancient rhythms. The stage is set by the extraordinary geology of this water-sculpted landscape—the stories behind the scenery both dramatic and compelling.

The river is truly the lifeblood of this desert country. As we float through a succession of buff and vermillion canyons refreshed by the verdure of cottonwoods and boxelders, the flutelike songs of canyon wrens echo from the canyon walls. Not surprisingly, the Yampa remains the last stronghold of the Colorado River System's endangered native fish species—their unique life histories rivaling those of the Pacific Northwest's legendary salmon. The names of the places we pass on this 71-mile float trip—Mather's Hole, Tiger Wall, Warm Springs Rapid, Steamboat Rock, Mitten Park Fault, Whirlpool and Split Mountain canyons—are part of the rich fabric of river lore. Join us for our 20th anniversary journey on the Yampa River—an unparalleled wilderness and learning experience.

Price: \$1,250 (includes a \$500 deposit)

Group Size: 20 Trip Rating: 3

Price Includes: 5-day raft trip (oar-powered) by Holiday River Expeditions, all river transfers, crew gratuities, six naturalist guides, all meals and beverages on the river, a final group dinner at the Curry Manor, and 2 nights' lodging at the Best Western Dinosaur Inn in Vernal, Utah. Does not include camping gear (which can be rented from Holiday) or roundtrip transportation to Vernal, Utah from your point of departure. Our river adventure begins on June 15 at 8 pm in Vernal and concludes with departure for home on the morning of June 21.



REALM OF THE ICE BEAR: A VOYAGE TO THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST AND WRANGEL ISLAND

August 27-September 11, 2008

**Audrey Benedict, Dr. Geoff Hammerson,
and the *Spirit of Enderby* Expedition Staff**

In eastern Siberia, the essence of Chukchi shamanism is a belief in the unique relationship between humans, nature, and the world inhabited by spirits. In our culture, there are no shamans to remind us how rapidly anthropogenic global warming is impacting human cultures and ecosystems throughout the circumpolar Arctic. We need to heed those voices and to carry the message to all who will listen. A late summer voyage to the **Russian High Arctic**—the realm of polar bears, walrus, bowhead, beluga, and gray whales, seals, millions of seabirds, and the traditional homeland of the **Chukchi** people—is a gift made possible by melting sea ice and by the fall of the Cold War “Ice Curtain” that once separated the **Russian Far East** and **Arctic Alaska**. This amazing expedition aboard the 44-passenger *Spirit of Enderby*, an ice-hardened Russian ship under charter to **Heritage Expeditions**, will take us where few visitors have gone before!

Our voyage begins with an easy charter flight on Bering Air from **Anchorage** to **Anadyr**, located at 65°N in **Russian Chukotka**. Boarding our ship, we'll set off across the Gulf of Anadyr, watching for the beluga whales and other marine life that frequent these biologically-rich waters. Aboard our comfortable ship and using zodiacs for shore landings, we'll head north along the wild **Chukotka Peninsula**, navigating legendary “**Whale Alley**,” which is delimited by the beautiful and uninhabited islands of **Arakamchechen** and **Yttygran**. According to anthropologists, the extraordinary structures built from whalebone that we'll see and the many other ancient sites found on Yttygran reflect its importance as a center for ritualized whale worship. A visit to these islands is an unforgettable experience.

Continuing on towards **Cape Dezhnev**, we'll visit the Chukchi village of **Uelen**, where villagers still make their living by hunting walrus in traditional ways. The Chukchi are unusual among Arctic peoples in having two distinct cultures: the village-based marine mammal hunters (*ankalyn*) and the nomadic reindeer herders (*chauchu*) of the

tundra interior. They are also a handsome people, famous for their boat-making skills, especially their walrus-skin umiaks, their exquisitely beaded and decorated skin clothing, and for their expertise in domesticating reindeer. The Uelen Chuckchi are also renowned for their superb fossil mammoth and walrus tusk ivory scrimshaw and sculptures. Unlike many other Native groups, the Chukchis endured mass imprisonment and multiple attempts at cultural genocide at the hands of the Russians and were among the last groups to resist the eventual conquest of Siberia. Today, because of the disastrous state of the Russian economy, the Chukchi have re-embraced the “old ways” and have largely returned to a traditional, subsistence-based lifestyle. Our final landing in the area will be at spectacular **Kolyuchin Island**, now a wildlife sanctuary known for its seabird nesting cliffs and for its walrus haulout.

Traveling through the Bering Strait, we cross the **Arctic Circle** and sail into the icy waters of the Chuckchi Sea—arriving at our most anticipated and most northerly destination, the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Wrangel Island**, located at 71°14'N. and sitting astride the 180° meridian. Wrangel is frequently referred to as the “**Polar Bear Maternity Ward**” because it has the highest density of polar bear dens in the world. In fact, polar bear biologists regard Wrangel Island as the single most important refuge for the increasingly threatened Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population. The timing of our trip and the high numbers of bears returning to their wintering areas should afford us some wonderful observation and photographic opportunities. Mountainous Wrangel Island is a biodiversity mecca for the naturalist, with some 417 plant species, 100 migratory bird species, the world’s largest population of Pacific walrus (up to 100,000 in recent years), good numbers of both musk ox and Siberian reindeer, Arctic fox, and Siberian lemming.

Heading south, we travel along the Siberian coast to Cape Schmidt, launching our zodiacs at the mouth of the **Amguema River**. We’ll explore tiny **Lena Island** and witness the vast flocks of migratory birds readying themselves for the long journey south. Continuing along the coast, we’ll visit wildlife-rich **Kolyuchinskaya** and **Belyaka Inlets** before heading southwards through the Bering Strait to **Provideniya**, situated at the head of a picturesque fjord. To conclude this amazing cultural and natural history voyage, we’ll travel in-



land across the tundra in sturdy Russian-built trucks (called Urals) to join a group of nomadic Chukchi reindeer herders at their encampment. Spending a night on the tundra in a reindeer-skin tent, or *yaranga*, is an experience to be savored. Please join us for this amazing, once-in-a-lifetime voyage to the Russian Far East!

Group Size: 10 Trip Rating: 3

Price: Land/cruise prices quoted below are per person based on double occupancy and according to the cabin category selected. The prices quoted do not include possible fuel surcharges to be determined by Heritage Expeditions, alcohol or other items of personal choice, gratuities to the ship’s crew, pre- or post-trip accommodations in Anchorage or Anadyr if desired, roundtrip airfare to Anchorage from your point of departure, or the roundtrip Bering Air charter flight to Anadyr.

(1) Main Deck Cabin: \$6,367.

Lower deck location, two lower berths, port-hole, desk, washbasin, and shared bathroom.

(2) Superior Cabin: \$6,852.

Middle Deck location, window, upper and lower berths, desk, settee, and private bathroom.

(3) Superior Plus Cabin: \$7,225.

Middle or Upper Deck location, two lower berths, window, desk, settee, and private bathroom.

Registration Information: Cabins are reserved on a first-come, first serve basis. A **deposit of 25%** of the trip cost (payable by credit card; we’ll provide the form) directly to Heritage Expeditions is required to reserve space; the tour balance is due (payable to Cloud Ridge Naturalists) **90 days** prior to our departure.

Passports and Visas: You must have a passport valid for at least **6 months** after the intended date of departure from Russia. You will also need to obtain a **Visa** for entry into Russia. **Tourist Visas** are issued for 30 days. Visa application forms and completion guidelines are available on request.

CLOUD RIDGE LEADERS

Audrey Benedict is the founder and Director of Cloud Ridge Naturalists. She is the author of *Valley of the Dunes: Great Sand Dunes National Park* (2005) and *A Naturalist's Guide to the Southern Rockies* (2008). Trained as a biologist and geologist, Audrey has a broad knowledge of natural history in mountainous environments in many parts of the world, with a special interest in the northern and southern circumpolar regions, and temperate rainforests in both the Patagonian Andes and the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Geoff Hammerson, Cloud Ridge's Co-Director, lives in the Pacific Northwest. Geoff has served as a Research Zoologist for both The Nature Conservancy and NatureServe and teaches courses in field ecology, ornithology, and marine ecosystems at Wesleyan University and elsewhere. He is the author of *Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado*, as well as the definitive *Connecticut Wildlife*. Geoff is a superb field teacher, always adding new dimensions to his far-ranging, natural history expertise.

Dr. Emmett Evanoff is an Assistant Professor in the Geology Department at the University of Northern Colorado, and a Research Associate at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. His research over the years has focused on the study of paleoenvironments—the “story behind the scenery.” Emmett brings to his teaching a tremendous knowledge of regional geology and a contagious enthusiasm for the geologic events that have shaped western landscapes.

Sarah Drummond graduated from Maine's College of the Atlantic, and was awarded a prestigious Thomas J. Watson Foundation Fellowship, supporting a year of research and travel to Argentina, French Polynesia, New Zealand, Australia, Greenland, and the Galapagos. Sarah revisited many of the places made famous by early expedition artist/naturalists, producing a collection of superb watercolor paintings and field journals that will be part of a forth-coming book detailing her own “voyage of discovery” in a changing world.

Kimber Owen wears many hats—owner of the *M/V Sea Wolf* and Sea Wolf Adventures, Captain, Naturalist, and Conservationist. Her passion for Alaska and its wildlife is unsurpassed and is re-

flected in her mission to make the *M/V Sea Wolf* a platform for conservation education throughout the Pacific Northwest. Kimber's experience in creating “Leap of Faith,” a therapeutic riding center in Texas, inspired her retrofit of the Sea Wolf—total accessibility in the service of wilderness education without barriers!

Dr. Mike Scott is a Senior Research Ecologist for the U.S. Geological Survey and an Affiliate Faculty member of the Biology Department at Colorado State University. His research focuses on the biology and ecology of cottonwoods, tamarisk, and other riparian tree species, and on efforts to develop a predictive understanding of how riparian vegetation responds to human-induced changes in stream flow. Mike is an excellent field teacher, and is enthusiastic in sharing his broad knowledge of river systems with others.

Dr. Ed Wick has studied the biology, behavioral ecology, and habitat requirements of the Endangered native fish species of the Colorado River System for more than 30 years. As both a private research consultant and working in conjunction with numerous governmental agencies, Ed has focused the majority of his research efforts on the Yampa, Green, Little Snake, White, and Colorado Rivers. He is an extraordinary field teacher—an eloquent and compelling spokesman for the conservation of the native fish of the Colorado River System.

Carol and Carlos Passera founded and direct the premier Patagonian ecotourism company, **Causana Viajes**. Based in Puerto Madryn, located on Patagonia's Atlantic coast, the couple's love for Patagonia began nearly 30 years ago when Carlos, a leading environmental journalist, was appointed Park Ranger at the Punta Tombo Magellanic Penguin Reserve. Superb naturalists and cultural historians, Carol and Carlos champion conservation efforts throughout Patagonia and have guided tours for Massachusetts Audubon, Questers, Geographic Expeditions, Cloud Ridge, and others.

Barbara Knapton grew up near Washington's Olympic National Park but lost her heart to the Chilean altiplano and the Atacama Desert nearly 15 years ago. A biologist by training, Barb founded **Alto Andino Nature Tours** in 1994 and lives in Putre, Chile, where she specializes in guiding trips for birders and botanists throughout northern Chile.

TRIP RATINGS

We rate our trips to assist you in choosing the learning adventure that's right for you. Trips are assigned a number from 1 to 4 according to the degree of activity and fitness required. A careful reading of our trip descriptions should provide additional information about specific trip activities such as hiking or sea kayaking.

(1) EASY: Hotel, lodge, ship, or boat-based, no camping, hikes of up to 2 miles, and minimal exposure to high elevations.

(2) EASY TO MODERATE: Lodge, ship, or camping based, hikes of 2-4 miles, optional sea kayaking, possible small plane travel, and moderate elevation gains.

(3) MODERATE TO STRENUOUS: Expedition ship, boat or raft-based, remote wilderness localities, possible primitive camping, small plane travel as needed, and trail or off-trail hikes of up to 6-8 miles over rugged, mountainous terrain.

(4) STRENUOUS: Expeditionary and rugged in nature, primitive camping, full-day hikes in steep, mountainous terrain, some hikes in excess of 8 miles, and possible sea kayaking or whitewater rafting.

A WORD ABOUT EXPEDITION TRAVEL

Because of the agility required on most expeditionary-class ships, boats, or on raft-based trips, participants with serious disabilities, chronic heart and/or respiratory conditions, or other potentially debilitating medical conditions are advised NOT to register for these trips. Please note that the *M/V Sea Wolf* is rated as fully **Accessible**. By forwarding the registration deposit for any expedition-class trip you are certifying that you are in good physical health and capable of performing all normal activities on the expedition.

TRIP CANCELLATION & TRAVEL INSURANCE

We **strongly recommend** that all trip participants purchase travel insurance that includes **trip cancellation** and **medical emergency/evacuation coverage**. Doing so protects your travel investment in the event of illness or injury to you or to a family member prior to or during the trip. Contact Cloud Ridge or one of our recommended travel insurance providers for a brochure describing the range of insurance options available. Emergency evacuation from remote, wilderness sites is extremely expensive and is generally not included in standard medical insurance policies. Participants covered by Medicare are advised that Medicare does not provide coverage outside the U.S; a travel insurance policy does. A word to the wise traveler—***Don't leave home without it!***

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

To register for one of Cloud Ridge's expeditions, simply fill out the registration form and send it to us, along with your **non-refundable** deposit. In the event that a trip is full, we'll add your name to a wait-list and return your deposit. Trip prices are based on double occupancy. Should you wish single accommodations (when available) or have no roommate and we are unable to assign one, please be advised that you will need to pay a single supplement. The balance of all tour fees is due **90 days** prior to departure. Registrations received **within 90 days** of departure must include payment in full.

CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be made in writing. Because we send payments to our travel suppliers well in advance of our departures, we cannot offer refunds beyond those described below. Cancellation refunds are made according to the following schedule:

- ◆ Cancellation received **90 days or more** prior to a trip's departure, all trip costs, less the deposit, will be refunded. The deposit will also be refunded if we are able to fill your space from a wait-list.
- ◆ Cancellation received **less than 90 days** prior to departure, no refund is possible unless we can fill your space from a wait-list.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Cloud Ridge Naturalists is a **nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3** organization providing high quality educational opportunities in the natural sciences, and financial support to entities and individuals conducting research in critical areas of conservation concern. If you feel that you would like to become a **Supporting Member (\$25)** or a **Sponsor (\$50 or more)**, we would be sincerely grateful. All contributions, unless you wish to support a specific conservation project, are placed in a special fund to underwrite our scholarships or to defray Cloud Ridge operating expenses. For more information, please contact:

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◆ CLOUD RIDGE BROCHURE CREDITS ◆

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