



Cloud Ridge Naturalists

FIELD DISCOVERY SEMINARS
2012

A WORD ABOUT CLOUD RIDGE

Cloud Ridge Naturalists is one of the oldest and most respected nonprofit field schools in the West. Over the past thirty-two years, several thousand people have experienced the special blend of environmental 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. Our educational vision embraces a multi-disciplinary perspective well grounded in state-of-the-art science. Just a glance through the biographies of our leaders should convey the excellence and dedication of our faculty—their expertise, talent, and passion for teaching are unsurpassed! To continually broaden our outreach in a changing world, Sarah Drummond and Marilyn Hailbronner now join Audrey Benedict at Cloud Ridge's helm—sharing navigational challenges and providing new inspiration as we embark on our fourth decade.

Our learning adventures span the entire globe—from the Arctic to the Antarctic! Moving beyond the “last great place” model that drives traditional ecotourism, our goal is to become better-informed stewards—not just “snapshot” sojourners. We spend our days in some of the world's most beautiful places—recognizing that the impacts of global climatic change and environmental degradation transcend international and ecological boundaries. Wherever we travel, and by whatever means—expedition ship, boat, raft, sea kayak, or on foot—we work only with outfitters and guides whose operating principles and environmental ethics parallel our own. Our field seminar groups are kept small and congenial, creating the best possible atmosphere for learning, discussion, and reflection. We take your safety, comfort, and enjoyment seriously—even in the most remote field settings. We select picturesque lodges, classic boats, or campsites that have a strong

sense of place, and make every effort to live up to our reputation for fine food. Not surprisingly, more than 80% of our participants each year have traveled with us before. That matters to us! We look forward to welcoming new friends and old on our next voyage or journey afield!

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Visit our website at www.CloudRidge.org for photos of our 2012 destinations, our annual “Field Notes” posting, archived descriptions and images from previous trips, slideshows and video clips from our adventures afield, as well as the latest offerings from Cloud Ridge Publishing.



WILD OCEAN MISTS: ALASKA'S GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK

May 6-18, 2012 13 Days/12 Nights
Wayne Howell, Kimber Owen,
Marilyn Hailbronner & M/V Sea Wolf Crew

*Glaciers move in tides. So do mountains,
so do all things.* (John Muir)

Imagine Glacier Bay as John Muir saw it in 1899, as a member of the legendary Harriman Expedition—without the cruise ships, the guide-books, and interpretive signs that define the modern visitor's experience. Glacier Bay is a deepwater fjord system with two arms, Muir Inlet and the West Arm, each more than 65 miles long. Traveling aboard the *M/V Sea Wolf*, a 97-foot vintage wooden boat, we'll have the chance to see this spectacular landscape of glaciers and fjords in much the same way that Harriman's scientists did. We'll trace the evidence of climatic change left behind by the advance and retreat of these immense glaciers—just as Muir did—and ponder the impacts and environmental changes that loom on the horizon.

Unlike big cruise ships, *Sea Wolf* is trim enough to explore the narrowest of fjords and shallow coastal waters. She hosts twelve passengers and a crew of five in superb comfort—the perfect size for a voyage such as ours. The *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 view of the tidewater glaciers, inlets, islets, and estuary streams that make this coastal wilderness one of North America's most biologically diverse areas. Few people know this ice-bound wilderness park as well as our leaders, Wayne Howell, recently retired archaeologist and naturalist for Glacier Bay National Park, and the *Sea Wolf*'s owner, Kimber Owen. Marilyn Hailbronner, naturalist artist and *Sea Wolf* crew member, will share her techniques for using drawing and watercolor to enhance your natural history observations—a joy for those wishing to follow the centuries-old tradition of keeping an expedition journal.

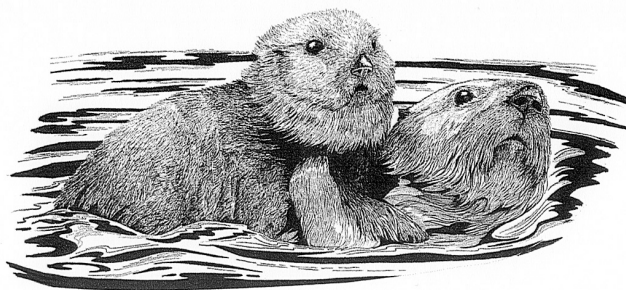
May is a magical time to be in Glacier Bay, largely because the weather is at its best and we have these spectacular fjords to ourselves—just the bears, the first humpback whales, and the thousands of migrating shorebirds and seabirds traveling the Pacific Flyway. Against a backdrop of some of the most 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. Both brown and black bears, recently emerged from hibernation dens, relish sweetly resinous cottonwood buds, graze on sedges, or scrape succulent barnacles and mussels from the rocks. For the wildlife of Glacier Bay and the outer islands, this is truly a time of plenty. Don't miss this rare opportunity to explore Glacier Bay!

Price: \$4,995 (includes a \$500 deposit)

Group Size: 12 Trip Rating: 2-3

Price Includes: 10 nights/11 days aboard the *M/V Sea Wolf*, all meals and beverages aboard, 2 nights' lodging in Juneau (May 6 and 17), two group dinners ashore, the services of a five-person crew and four naturalist leaders, roundtrip Air Excursions charter flight to Gustavus from Juneau (including a 90-minute scenic flight), all boat and hotel transfers, full sea kayak outfitting and instruction, gratuities to the *Sea Wolf*'s crew, and all applicable state and local taxes. **Does not include** roundtrip airfare to Juneau, Alaska from your point of departure.

Need more information? Visit *Sea Wolf Adventures* online at www.seawolfadventures.net for pictures of the *M/V Sea Wolf*, her cabins, amenities, accessibility & crew biographies.



GREEN RIVER JOURNEY: DESOLATION AND GRAY CANYONS

May 27-June 2, 2012 7 Days/6 Nights
Drs. Geoff Hammerson, Emmett Evanoff,
Mike Scott, Ed Wick, and Steve Cassells

Cutting a series of chasms in the 10,000-foot-high Tavaputs Plateau, the Green River forms a gorge deeper than the Grand Canyon at Bright Angel Creek. Desolation Canyon, first named by John Wesley Powell more than a century ago, is best introduced in this excerpt from his journal: *"The canyon is tortuous, the river very rapid, and many lateral canyons enter from either side. Crag and tower-shaped peaks are seen everywhere, and above them long lines of broken cliffs."* Below Three Fords Canyon, the buttressed walls of Desolation give way abruptly to a giant's staircase of gray, cream, and ochre as the river emerges through the portals of the Book Cliffs—which Powell called *"one of the most wonderful facades in the world."* Remote and wild, these Green River canyons have witnessed the travails of both the famous and infamous. Not long after Powell's expedition, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid repeatedly sought refuge from the law in these labyrinthine canyons. Here and there, abandoned homesteads mark the end of a steadfast frontier endurance. A rich legacy of cliff dwellings and rock art provides a tantalizing glimpse of ancient life-ways. The 30-minute flight by small plane to our put-in, much of it over the Green River's canyons, provides a spectacular introduction to the river drama that awaits us. Riffles and rapids—more than 60 of them—season this 5-day, 84-mile oar-powered raft journey as we explore the geology, ecology and archaeology that symbolizes the magic of this river wilderness.

Price: \$1,650 (includes a \$600 deposit)

Group Size: 20 Trip Rating 2-3

Price Includes: 5-day raft trip (oar-powered) by Holiday River Expeditions, charter flight to the river put-in, take-out transfer, all instruction by our 5 leaders, 13 gourmet meals while on the river, all beverages on the river, gratuities to our raft guides, two nights' lodging (May 27 and June 1) at the Best Western River Terrace in Green River, Utah, and final group dinner in Green River on June 1. The journey begins at 8 pm on May 27 (at our hotel). June 2 is a travel-home day.

Does not include your travel to or from Green River, Utah from your point of departure.

THROUGH AN ARTIST'S EYE SERIES

Long before the camera became a standard piece of field equipment, expedition naturalists kept illustrated field journals in which to record their discoveries and observations. Artists, just as photographers do today, continue to play a crucial role in bringing the beauty of the natural world to public attention and create a constituency for conservation. Our workshop series offers beginning and experienced artists alike the opportunity to explore new techniques in pencil, pen, and watercolor—always opening new windows on the natural world around us.



THROUGH AN ARTIST'S EYE: MAINE'S MONHEGAN, MT. DESERT, AND GREAT DUCK ISLANDS

June 3-11, 2012 9 Days/8 Nights
Sarah Drummond and Marilyn Hailbronner

Coastal Maine is not a still life—nothing is ever still or unchanging where the land meets the sea. Life along coastal edges tends to be a rough and tumble existence. When the storms of winter rage along the coast, it seems impossible that such a harsh world could embrace so many different life-forms. With the coming of spring, coastal and island habitats reveal their special magic to those who immerse themselves in the rhythm of life at the sea's edge. When you stand atop Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park, you see granite bedrock polished and etched with grooves marking the passage of a mile-thick ice sheet that once flowed southward out of the frozen Arctic. This massive complex of glaciers spread across the entire New England region, including all of Maine, the Gulf of Maine, and east to Maine's outer banks. When the glaciers finally receded some 13,000 years ago, the mainland rebounded from its icy shroud, rising out of the sea by more

than two hundred feet in many places. Master landscape artists—glacial erosion and wave action—created much of the magnificent coastal scenery we see today. Maine’s coastline corkscrews in and out to form picturesque coves and sheltering bays, more than a dozen dramatic peninsulas, cliff-bound headlands, and a wealth of offshore islands. The islands themselves are the much-eroded remnants of a coastal mountain range overrun by the same glaciers that sculpted the mainland.

Our island-based artist’s workshop focuses on the many ways that landscape complexity and biological diversity are linked, as well as the unique adaptations that enable plants and animals to survive in a dynamic water-shaped world. As we explore the islands, artists Sarah Drummond and Marilyn Hailbronner will offer workshops emphasizing quick sketching and drawing, detailed studies in pen-and-ink or on scratch-board, and watercolor techniques—enriching our natural history observations, conveying the dance of light and shadow, and creating a sense of place.

We begin and end our island sojourn in Portland, Maine, heading first to Rockland’s famous Farnsworth Art Museum and the Wyeth Center, home to a vast collection of works by Maine’s best known artists, including N.C., James, and Andrew Wyeth, Rockwell Kent, Robert Henri, and Edward Hopper. Traveling by ferry to fabled Monhegan Island, which lies a dozen nautical miles off the coast, in the Gulf of Maine, we’ll spend several days exploring an island that is truly a world apart—its remoteness and magnificent scenery inspiring artists for more than 100 years. Monhegan is small, just a mile and a half long, and was purchased and settled about 1790 by two families, the Trefethrens and Sterlings. Thanks to preservation efforts by the Monhegan Associates, a resident land trust, nearly 70% of the island is protected wild land, completely roadless, and its architectural integrity remains little changed. We’ll spend our days hiking the superb network of trails that provide access to the island’s rocky headlands, watch for seabirds and whales from the cliffs and beaches, experience the evergreen magic of Cathedral Woods, and visit Monhegan Light, a classic Maine lighthouse that was lit by whale oil for more than 100 years—with plenty of time for sketching as we go.

Moving northward to Mount Desert Island, the largest of Maine’s coastal islands, we’ll enjoy several days exploring Acadia National Park’s diverse environments—from the summit of Cadillac Mountain to the deciduous woodlands, peat bogs and ponds, the cliffs, and rock-bound intertidal zone. The timing of our visit allows us to miss the crowds and to get off the beaten track. Sea conditions permitting, we’ll conclude our island sojourn with a boat trip to uninhabited Great Duck Island. This tiny island provides critical nesting habitat for seabirds such as Leach’s storm petrel and black guillemot. We’ll visit College of the Atlantic’s research station and learn about ongoing seabird research. There is no better way to end our Maine island sojourn than by spending an afternoon observing, sketching, and photographing daily life in a seabird colony—a total sensory experience!

Price: \$2,500 (includes a \$500 deposit)

Group size: 10 Trip Rating: 2-3

Price includes: all instruction and guide services, all van, ferry and small boat transportation, 8 nights’ lodging, all meals (beginning with dinner on June 3 and ending with dinner on June 10), service gratuities as appropriate, and all entrance fees. **Does not include** roundtrip airfare to Portland, Maine from your point of departure, meals other than those listed, or art supplies.



CONSERVATION IN FOCUS SERIES

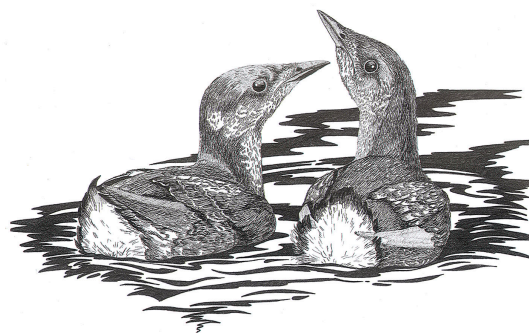
Our **Conservation in Focus** workshops embody the true spirit of expeditionary voyaging. Whether you are interested in projects close to home or in the most remote corners of our changing world, photography can be a powerful tool for building a public constituency for conservation. Our workshop leaders, Bob Rozinski and Wendy Shattil, have dedicated their careers to portraying the inherent beauty of the natural world but also the environmental dramas that threaten the fragile fabric of life. Fellows of the International League of Conservation Photographers, Bob and Wendy are recognized worldwide for their compelling portrayals of at-risk ecosystems. Our “classroom-afloat” workshops provide a unique opportunity to refine your skills and make a conservation difference with your own images.

CONSERVATION IN FOCUS (I): WILDERNESS IMAGES OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA

June 16-24, 2012 9 Days/8 Nights
Bob Rozinski & Wendy Shattil,
Audrey Benedict and the *M/V Catalyst* Crew

Few places in North America rival the scenic beauty and wildlife diversity of Southeast Alaska's Inside Passage. These magical land and seascapes—the spectacular fjords, tidewater glaciers, and old-growth forests of Frederick Sound, Thomas Bay, Endicott Arm, and Ford's Terror—provide the perfect setting for our **Conservation in Focus** workshop. Renowned photographers Bob Rozinski and Wendy Shattil lead this week-long voyage aboard the classic *M/V Catalyst*, a 76-foot wooden boat built in 1932 as the floating laboratory for the University of Washington. The *Catalyst* carries 12 passengers in superb comfort and is equipped with a full complement of sea kayaks and a motorized inflatable to enable explorations both near and far. The use of sea kayaks allows us a seal's-eye view of the marine world—the perfect platform for aspiring conservation photographers.

In contrast to the traditional “how-to” workshop, our **Conservation in Focus** seminars are designed to enable participants to master the creative and technical skills required to make visual media a more powerful conservation tool—wherever participants wish to be actively engaged in conservation work. In addition to learning about the natural history of Southeast Alaska, we'll explore and discuss the impacts that global warming is having on the region's glaciers, the threats facing marine and land-based wildlife, and the effects of marine pollution on animal and human life-ways. Most importantly, we'll learn to shoot images that tell a story and have the strongest possible impact on the viewer. Workshop activities emphasize image composition, context and perspective, using natural light effectively, and learning new ways to present your work—always honoring photographic integrity and the natural environment throughout the creative process. Working collectively, we'll produce a photo book that captures the “essence” of Southeast Alaska as well as the environmental challenges that lie ahead. Don't miss this rare opportunity to refine your skills and make a difference with your images!



Price: \$4,100 (includes a \$500 deposit)

Group Size: 12 Trip Rating: 2-3

Price Includes: 6 nights/7 days aboard the *M/V Catalyst*, all meals and beverages (including wine and beer), 2 nights' lodging (June 16 in Petersburg and June 23 in Juneau), two group dinners ashore, the services of our three photographer/naturalist leaders and the *Catalyst*'s four-person crew, full sea kayak outfitting and expert instruction, gratuities to the *Catalyst*'s crew, boat/hotel transfers, and a copy of the photo book. The price quoted is *per person* based on double occupancy; a single supplement of \$250 is required of participants preferring non-shared hotel accommodations. **Does not include** your roundtrip airfare from your point of departure to Petersburg, Alaska or your return from Juneau.

CONSERVATION IN FOCUS (II): THE SALISH SEA & SAN JUAN ISLANDS

September 30-October 7, 2012 8 Days/7 Nights
Bob Rozinski & Wendy Shattil, Jennifer Hahn,
Audrey Benedict and the *M/V Catalyst* Crew

Thousands of years before Europeans first arrived in the Pacific Northwest, the Coastal Salish people flourished along the shores of one of the most biologically rich inland seas in the world—the Salish Sea. Named in honor of those first inhabitants, the Salish Sea straddles the Canadian border and includes Washington's Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the San Juan Archipelago, and British Columbia's Gulf Islands and the Strait of Georgia. Connected to the Pacific Ocean primarily via the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Salish Sea receives an almost constant influx of nutrient-rich freshwater from British Columbia's Fraser River, the Skagit, and the many smaller rivers of Washington's mainland—the essential building blocks for the sea's extraordinary biodiversity. The strong currents and extreme tidal exchanges that typify the Salish Sea create optimal

conditions for nutrient upwelling and for the proliferation of the photosynthetic plankton that form the basis of the marine food chain. The Salish Sea is home to all five species of Pacific salmon, as well as sea-run steelhead and bull trout. It also provides critical habitat for marine mammals such as migrating grey whales, resident and transient populations of orcas, harbor seals, Steller and California sea lions, and river otters. At least 165 species of birds depend on the Salish Sea and adjacent terrestrial habitats for survival.

The San Juan Archipelago, which lies at the heart of the Salish Sea, provides the perfect setting for our second **Conservation in Focus** workshop in the Pacific Northwest. Life in the San Juan Islands is governed by the sea's rhythms—their extraordinary biological richness attributed to the rain shadow cast by the Olympic Mountains and the greater diversity of habitats available to plants and animals in these islands than occurs along the wetter mainland coast. Not surprisingly, the San Juans are home to several “giants” of the marine world, including the North Pacific giant octopus, plumose anemone, giant red sea urchin, and the geoduck, largest of the burrowing clams. Of the many resident and wintering seabirds and sea ducks we'll see—murrelets, pigeon guillemots, common murre, rhinoceros auklets, scoters, and harlequin ducks—large numbers will have just arrived from their North Pacific breeding areas.

Once again, our “classroom” afloat is the classic *M/V Catalyst*, a 76-foot wooden boat built in 1932 as the floating laboratory for the University of Washington. She carries 12 passengers in superb comfort and is equipped with a full complement of sea kayaks and a motorized inflatable to enable explorations both near and far. Sea kayaks allow a more intimate, seal's-eye view of the marine world—the perfect platform for aspiring conservation photographers. Our leaders, Wendy Shattil and Bob Rozinski, are joined by naturalist Jenny Hahn, one of the Northwest's foremost guides and an award-winning author. Special guest lecturers, Dr. Joe Gaydos, Director of the SeaDoc Society, and Dr. Russel Barsh and botanist Madrona Murphy of Kwiáht (Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea), will share the latest research focused on Salish Sea ecosystems. Over 7 million people live in the drainage basin that nourishes the Salish Sea. The impacts of burgeoning population, global warming, ocean acidification, pollution, logging, fishing practices and

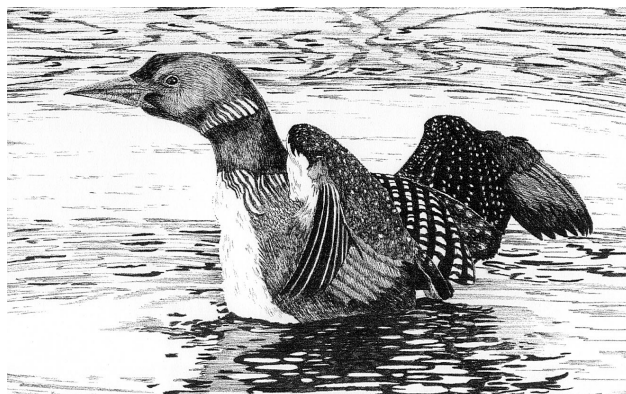
associated seabird by-catch, and fish farming all pose environmental challenges for the future. Delivering a strong conservation message requires a thorough understanding of your subject—as well as a sense of photographic integrity and environmental stewardship. Collectively, we'll create a photo book that truly captures the essence of the Salish Sea region—as well as the challenges looming on the horizon. Refine your photographic skills, be inspired, and learn how to make a conservation difference with your images!

Price: \$2,550 (includes a \$500 deposit)

Group Size: 12 Trip Rating: 2-3

Price Includes: 5 nights/6 days aboard the *M/V Catalyst*, all meals and beverages (including wine and beer), 2 nights' lodging (September 30 & October 6 in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island), two group dinners ashore, all instruction by our photographic and naturalist leaders, guest lecturers, full sea kayak outfitting, *Catalyst's* four-person crew and all gratuities, a copy of our group-produced photo book, and a copy of Jenny's *Pacific Feast*. The price quoted is *per person* based on double occupancy. The *Catalyst* has only one single-berth cabin. A single supplement of \$250 is required of any participant preferring non-shared hotel accommodations or for whom we have no roommate. **Does not include** roundtrip airfare or travel from your point of departure to Friday Harbor, San Juan Island. Seminar begins with dinner and lodging in Friday Harbor on September 30 and concludes with dinner and lodging on October 6.

Need more information? Visit the **Pacific Catalyst** website at www.pacificcatalyst.com for boat pictures, cabin details, interior spaces and amenities, and crew biographies.



2012 INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS SOUTH AFRICA & NAMIBIA



Journeys to South Africa and Namibia top the travel “wish list” for most naturalists. Ranking third in the world in total biodiversity, South Africa is home to nearly all the charismatic mega-fauna for which sub-Saharan Africa is famous, more endemic bird species than are found anywhere else on the continent, and some of the world’s most beautiful and unusual plants. South Africa’s flora gets center stage on our first trip to the African continent—but birdwatching and other wildlife viewing opportunities will be exceptional wherever we go. Our second trip shifts the naturalist focus to Namibia, where we experience towering orange dunes, fog-nourished coastal deserts, and Etosha National Park, one of Africa’s premier wildlife safari destinations.

THE FLORA OF SOUTH AFRICA: THE WESTERN CAPE, NAMAQUALAND, AND THE GREAT KAROO

August 17-31, 2012 15 days/14 nights ➔➔
Patrick Cardwell and Local Guides

South Africa is famous the world over for the incredible diversity and beauty of its native flora. Though it represents less than 1 percent of the world’s total land surface, South Africa accounts for 10 percent of all the known species of flowering plants. Of these, 80 percent are endemic, found only in South Africa. Anyone who loves

flowers or gardens will recognize floral “friends” among the most flamboyant of South Africa’s native species—the proteas, geraniums, amaryllis, freesias, ice plants, red-hot poker, bird-of-paradise, gladiolas, and gazanias. Our journey begins in Cape Town, our portal to the Cape Peninsula. Driving along the spectacularly scenic Atlantic coastline, we’ll enjoy the varied nature preserves that comprise Table Mountain National Park, a World Heritage Site. The Cape Peninsula is home to more than 1000 flowering plant species, over 50 species of mammals, 250 species of birds, and more than 40 species of amphibians and reptiles. The Cape of Good Hope, described by Sir Francis Drake on his global voyage in 1580 as “the fairest Cape...in the whole circumference of the earth,” provides our first introduction to the botanical wonders of the Cape Floristic Region. We’ll explore world-renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, the first gardens in the world devoted exclusively to a country’s indigenous flora. The habitats and plant species represented provide an extraordinary cross-section of South Africa’s major vegetation communities. Our trip has been timed for peak bloom—the distinctive shrublands known as *fynbos* should be awash in red proteas, magenta-hued heaths, orange gerbera daisies, and pink ice plants. Wildlife watching should also be excellent, especially for the endemic bird species of the *fynbos*, such as orange-breasted sunbird, Cape sugarbird, and the Cape canary. We’ll see ostriches and also be able to photograph African penguins at Boulders Beach.

Leaving the Cape Peninsula, we head north along the dramatic coastline of the Western Cape, with its deserted beaches, rolling dune fields (*sandveld*), and unusual granite outcrops—always keeping a watchful eye for a troop of Chacma baboons, Cape mountain zebra, or bontebok. We’ll spend a day exploring and photographing in West Coast National Park, with its fabulously blooming coastal *strandveld* and *sandveld* habits and the magnificent lagoon serves as a critical stopover for migratory birds and hosts large breeding colonies of Cape cormorant and Cape gannet. In the coastal scrub, we’ll watch for several species of antelope, including springbok and the diminutive steenbok and Cape grysbok. Moving further north, into the region known as Namaqualand, we’ll immerse ourselves in brilliantly colored floral tapestries amidst rounded granite hills and quartz-studded plains. Imagine showy gazanias and other daisies, succulent karoo

species, such as aloes and ice plants, geophytes (bulbous species) such as hyacinth, iris, candlebra lilies, and amaryllis—all while watching oryx, with their rapier-like horns, and springbok, South Africa's national mammal, wandering across the plain.

Our return route takes us over mountain passes and across dramatic plateaus as we enter the heartland of the Great Karoo. Wherever we look, showy geophytes, such as snow-white arum lily and the yellow spires of bulbinella, grace the rocky slopes. In the most arid and moon-like landscapes, we find the cryptically colored, dwarf succulents known as “living rocks.” In the remote Cedarberg Mountains, we'll explore pristine mountain *fynbos*, reveling in a high elevation species mix of proteas and heaths. Descending into the famed Tankawa Karoo, in the rain shadow of the Cedarbergs, we enjoy a spectacularly colorful display of succulents, especially aloes and ice plants, as well as gazanias and other annual daisies. A final dawn wildlife drive gives us a chance to see and photograph giraffe, Cape buffalo, blue wildebeest, Burchell's zebra, kudu, impala, meerkats, and white rhino. Our return to Cape Town brings us full circle—and to the conclusion of a unique natural history journey!

Price: \$4,950 (includes a \$1,000 deposit)

Group Size: 12 Trip Rating: 2

Price Includes: 15 Days/14 Nights, including all hotel/airport transfers, all ground transportation, all lodging, all meals, services of naturalist guides, local guides/lecturers, all national park and museum entrance fees, and service gratuities.

Does not include roundtrip airfare to Cape Town from your point of departure, trip insurance (required), alcohol, or items of a personal nature. Trip cost is based on double occupancy; the single supplement is \$490.

A NATURALIST'S JOURNEY: FROM SOUTH AFRICA'S FAIREST CAPE TO THE JEWEL OF NAMIBIA

**September 1-19, 2012 19 days/18 nights ➡➡
Patrick Cardwell and Local Guides**

The landscapes of southern Africa provide a compelling and dramatic backdrop to its magnificent wildlife. Our journey begins in Cape Town, at the southwestern tip of the African continent, with the magic of a visit to the Cape of Good

Hope Nature Preserve. We'll be introduced to the amazing flora of South Africa here and at the world-renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. We should also see a few of South Africa's emblematic wildlife species—antelope such as the eland, bontebok (the rarest and most distinctively marked), grey rhebok, and red hartebeest. At Simon's Town, on Boulders Beach, we'll observe and photograph a colony of African penguins and enjoy the beauty of a sunset over False Bay.

There is something in the sun-baked and seemingly barren landscape of Namibia that makes this country irresistible to naturalists. Most of us imagine African savannas as lush grasslands stretching beyond the horizon. Namibia is utterly different—beautiful and surreal in equal measure. Its extraordinary wildlife, which seem uniquely adapted to this harsh environment, often appear like a mirage amidst the swirling, shimmering heat waves. In deserts, like anywhere else, the struggle for survival revolves around finding food and successfully rearing young. Temperature extremes and water scarcity only add to the challenge. Though insects and reptiles have the adaptive edge in coping with their environment, Namibia's birds and mammals have learned to exploit their opportunities, albeit brief, when the desert offers favorable conditions. Geologists believe that the Namib Desert, having formed some 80 million years ago, is the world's oldest desert. The unique adaptations of its plants and animals clearly mirror this ancient evolutionary tapestry. Our Namibian explorations highlight three regions showcasing the country's beauty and wildlife diversity—the Sossusvlei Section of Namib-Naukluft Park, the coastal wilderness north of Swakopmund, and Etosha National Park.

We fly in a covey of small planes from Windhoek, Namibia's capital city, to a landing strip near the towering orange dunes of Sossusvlei. Namib-Naukluft Park, the largest nature reserve in Africa, is divided into four distinct areas. Our stay within the Sossusvlei Section of the park, provides us with magnificent views of the dunes, unparalleled hiking, and the opportunity to experience and photograph the fire-orange of a dune sunset. Geologists believe these vast dune fields, which continue migrating north and west in a constant cycle with the prevailing winds, as well as the Namib Desert's extreme aridity, are linked to the development of the Atlantic Ocean's cold Benguela Current at least 5 million years ago.

Namibia's coast provides a striking series of contrasts between the vast dune fields and the wild South Atlantic Ocean. Driving towards Swakopmund, we pass along the western edge of the Khomas Hochland Mountains, which rise to 2000 meters above sea level, before turning west across the Namib Desert to the seabird-rich waters of Walvis Bay. In addition to both the white-fronted and the chestnut plover, we should also see large numbers of lesser and greater flamingos. Making our way across the gravel plains and sandy river beds, we'll watch for Ruppell's korhaan, Namaqua sandgrouse and double-banded courser. We'll also be on the lookout for bat-eared fox, black-backed jackal, and aardwolf amidst the termite mounds that dot the plain. Traveling in customized 4x4 vehicles along the Swakop River, we explore a moonscape populated by "stiltling" ground beetles, shovel-snouted lizards, skinks, chameleons, sidewinders, blind worms, scorpions, and golden moles. Among the many unusual plants adapted to these extreme conditions—the living rocks (*Lithops*), fetid-smelling hoodias, and fog-gathering lichens—we'll search for the world's most bizarre species, the Namibian endemic *Welwitschia mirabilis*. Arriving at the river's mouth, on the rocky outer coast, we'll see greater flamingos, African black oystercatchers, Cape and white-breasted cormorants, great white pelicans, and many other species. Continuing north, towards the Skeleton Coast wilderness, we visit the Cape Cross Fur Seal Reserve, home to a colony of Cape fur seals, the largest fur seal species in the world.

Shifting our attention inland to southern Damara-land and the Brandberg Mountains, Namibia's highest mountain range, we settle into the White Lady Lodge, named for an internationally famous San (Bushman) rock painting. We'll have two days to explore the dry tree-lined corridor of the Ugab River, a preferred travel route for the desert-adapted Namib elephant. Birdwatching should be excellent and we can expect regional specialties such as pearl-spotted owl, violet woodhoopoe, crimson-breasted shrike, swallow-tailed bee-eater, and many others.

Etosha is one of Africa's great national parks and the wildlife viewing here is on par with South Africa's Kruger, Kenya's Masai Mara, or Tanzania's Serengeti. Our approach to the park is along the route taken by Swedish explorer Charles Andersson in the mid-19th century. The forest

vegetation becomes increasingly lush as we get closer, with acacia thornveld giving way to broad-leaf woodland and open savannah. In the local Ovambo dialect, Etosha means "the place of dry water," in reference to the vast white salt pan that covers at least a third of this enormous park. Etosha is world-famous for the abundance and diversity of animals attracted to the waterholes dotting the edges of the salt pan. Our multi-day visit is timed to coincide with the dry season, when herds of elephants, giraffes, zebras, kudus, springbok, oryx, gemsbok, and many other animal species are concentrated around the principal waterholes. To experience Etosha's wildlife diversity, we'll stay at three unique safari camps—Namutoni, Halali, and Okaukuejo—each with spring-fed waterholes attracting predator and prey alike. Etosha is well-known for its predator populations and patient observers are often rewarded with good sightings of hyenas, a pride of lions, a family of cheetahs, or a solitary leopard. Our Namibian journey concludes at Waterberg Plateau National Park, a splendid flat-topped mountain flanked by sheer sandstone cliffs. We'll hope to see both white and black rhinos here, as well as roan antelope, sable, rock hyrax, and the banded mongoose. Join us for a magical Namibian desert odyssey!

Price: \$8,500 (includes a \$2,000 deposit)

Group Size: 14 Trip Rating: 2-3

Price Includes: pre-departure expedition packet, expert naturalist guide services, all domestic air and vehicle transportation while in South Africa and Namibia, all lodging, all meals, all airport and hotel transfers, all park entrance fees and permits, and all gratuities. **Does not include** roundtrip air transportation to Cape Town, South Africa from your home airport or other point of departure.

Special Note: ✈✈ indicates a two-day time allowance for international/overnight flights.



CLOUD RIDGE STAFF & LEADERS

Audrey Benedict is the founder and Director of Cloud Ridge Naturalists. Trained as both a geologist and biologist, Audrey has guided natural history groups in mountain and oceanic environments around the world for more than 35 years. She is author of the definitive *The Naturalist's Guide to the Southern Rockies* and *Valley of the Dunes: Great Sand Dunes National Park* with photographers Bob Rozinski and Wendy Shattil.

Patrick Cardwell has been fascinated by South Africa's birds and natural history for over 40 years. He's seen over 870 of Southern Africa's 900 or so bird species, participated in distribution studies for the S.A. Bird Atlas Project and a leading authority on the country's endemic species. Patrick is fully certified as a Field Guide of South Africa and holds Bird Life South Africa's specialist guide endorsement. He and his wife, Marie Louise, own Avian Leisure, a natural history tour company offering exclusively tailored itineraries.

Dr. Steve Cassells is one of Colorado's foremost archaeologists, the author of *The Archaeology of Colorado*, and recipient of the prestigious C.T. Hurst Award from the Colorado Archaeological Society. He is currently Professor of Anthropology at Laramie County Community College. Steve is a superb teacher who enjoys sharing his knowledge of human prehistory—especially when it involves running a river.

Sarah Drummond is a naturalist/artist who grew up traveling with Cloud Ridge and now serves as Co-Director. She received her B.A. from Maine's College of the Atlantic, where her studies emphasized ecology, island ecosystems and art, and where she was awarded a Watson Foundation research fellowship. Sarah has taught natural history art at COA and is completing a Masters at Prescott College. She spends her summers as a naturalist/kayak guide in Southeast Alaska aboard the *M/V Catalyst*, and is now working on a book that "follows in the footsteps" of artists who accompanied the major exploratory expeditions. See her artwork at www.sarahdrummondart.com

Dr. Emmett Evanoff is Assistant Professor of Geology at the University of Northern Colorado, and a Research Associate at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the University of Colorado Museum. His research focuses on the study

of paleo-environments—the "story behind the scenery." Emmett brings to his field teaching a tremendous knowledge of regional geology and a contagious enthusiasm for the geologic events that have shaped western landscapes.

Jennifer Hahn is a writer, illustrator, naturalist, teacher, wild harvester, and coastal traveler. She has 30 years of wilderness travel experience, including guiding natural history trips by sea kayak in the San Juan Islands for 22 years, solo-kayaking from Southeast Alaska to Washington, and has spent many seasons guiding in Southeast Alaska. She is author of the award-winning *Spirited Waters: Soloing South Through the Inside Passage*, and *Pacific Feast: A Cook's Guide to West Coast Foraging and Cuisine*.

Marilyn Hailbronner's drawings—rendered in pen and ink and color wash—grace Cloud Ridge's brochure and website. Her work as a professional artist is a reflection of her love for the natural world and her passion for conservation. Marilyn works aboard the *M/V Sea Wolf* as a naturalist/kayak guide in Glacier Bay. She also serves as Cloud Ridge's Staff Advisor for curriculum and medical issues, which takes her to wilderness areas around the world. Visit Marilyn's website to see more of her art: www.wildinkwell.com

Dr. Geoff Hammerson is Senior Research Zoologist for NatureServe and lives in Port Townsend, WA. He is the author of the definitive *Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado*, as well as *Connecticut Wildlife*. Geoff is an outstanding zoologist and a popular field instructor wherever he goes, always adding new dimensions to his natural history expertise, and is famous for his ability to coax the most reluctant animal to share its secrets with an appreciative audience.

Wayne Howell, who recently retired after a distinguished career at Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park, is an archaeologist with 35 years of experience working in Alaska, the American Southwest, and the Maya lowlands of Guatemala. Wayne's work in Glacier Bay has focused on historical and contemporary relationships of Tlingit clans to place and the ways in which landscape shapes culture. He continues to explore the natural history of Glacier Bay's hidden corners, combining geologic and ethnographic data to better understand the Little Ice-Age-history of human occupation in Glacier Bay and Chichagof Island.

Kimber Owen wears many hats—owner of the *M/V Sea Wolf* and Sea Wolf Adventures, captain, expert naturalist, and conservationist. Her passion for Alaska and its wildlife is unsurpassed and is reflected in her mission to make the *Sea Wolf* a platform for conservation education throughout the Pacific Northwest. Kimber's early 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.

Bob Rozinski & Wendy Shattil are the rarest of species—full-time professional nature photographers. They've worked individually and as a team for more than 30 years and are known world-wide for their award-winning images and reputation as environmental photographers of endangered species and at-risk ecosystems throughout North America. Fellows of the International League of Conservation Photographers, Bob and Wendy have produced twelve books, and their images have appeared in *National Wildlife*, *Audubon*, *Nature Conservancy*, *BBC Wildlife*, *Nature's Best*, *National Geographic* publications, and many others. They are extraordinarily talented and extremely generous in sharing their expertise.

Dr. Mike Scott, who recently retired as Senior Research Ecologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, focuses his research on the biology and ecology of cottonwoods and other riparian tree species of the Colorado River System, and on developing a predictive understanding of how western riparian vegetation responds to human-induced changes in stream flow. Mike is an excellent field teacher and has a marvelous talent for sharing his broad knowledge of rivers.

Dr. Ed Wick has studied the biology, behavioral ecology, and habitat requirements of the Colorado pike minnow (squawfish), humpback chub, and razorback sucker for more than 35 years. He has focused his research efforts on the Yampa, Green, Little Snake, White, and Colorado Rivers. Ed is an extraordinary field teacher—an eloquent and compelling spokesman for the conservation of the native fish of the Colorado River System.

A WORD ABOUT EXPEDITION TRAVEL

Our expeditions are rated to assist you in choosing the trip that's right for you. Because of the agility required on most expeditionary-class ships, in sea kayaks, or on raft-based trips, participants with significant disabilities, chronic heart and/or respiratory problems, 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.

(1) EASY: Hotel, lodge, ship, or small boat-based trips, 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, small plane travel, and moderate elevation gains.

(3) MODERATE TO STRENUOUS: Expedition ship, small plane, small boat or raft-based, remote wilderness localities, possible primitive camping, and trail or off-trail hikes of up to 6-8 miles, at elevation.

(4) STRENUOUS: Expeditionary and rugged in nature, primitive camping, full-day hikes in steep mountainous terrain, as well as possible sea kayaking or whitewater rafting.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

To register for one of Cloud Ridge's seminars, fill out the registration form and send it to us, along with your **non-refundable** deposit. In the event a trip is full, we'll add your name to a wait-list and return your deposit. Balance of all tour fees is due **90 days** prior to departure, unless otherwise noted. Registrations **within 90 days** of departure must include payment in full.

CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be made in writing. Because we must send payments to our travel suppliers well in advance of our departures, we cannot offer refunds beyond those described below. We appreciate your understanding! 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.

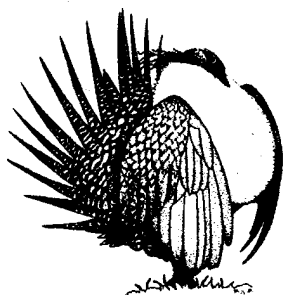
◆ Cancellation received **less than 90 days** prior to departure, no refund is possible unless we can fill your space from a wait-list.

TRIP CANCELLATION & TRAVEL INSURANCE

We **require** that all trip participants purchase some form of travel insurance, either **trip cancellation** and/or **medical emergency/evacuation coverage**, to protect 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 for information on the range of insurance options available. Emergency evacuation from remote wilderness areas is extremely expensive and 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.

Don't leave home without it!

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Cloud Ridge
Naturalists

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Return Service Requested

CONTRIBUTIONS

Cloud Ridge Naturalists is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c) 3 organization providing 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 are extremely grateful. All contributions, unless expressly specified, underwrite our scholarship program or to help defray expenses.

BROCHURE CREDITS: Design and text by **Audrey Benedict**. Editing by **Alice Levine**. Brochure and website artwork by **Marilyn Hailbronner** and **Sarah Drummond**. Cloud Ridge sage grouse logo by **Barbara Bash**. Website photography by **Audrey Benedict** and **Carlos Passera**. Printing by **Silver Star Printing** (Boulder, CO). Website design by **Clyde Lovett** and **Crestone Creations**.
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