



GRAND OREGON

May 17 – 29, 2027



Crater Lake © Kevin Burke

Oregon is the ninth largest state in the United States. This ambitious tour of “Grand Oregon” will sample most of the state’s diverse geographical regions. With such geographical diversity comes biological diversity. We will wind our way through the Cascade Mountains, the arid shrub steppe, the coastal mountain range, and Oregon’s beautiful coastline.

Oregon is known for its woodpeckers, with 13 species regularly occurring within its borders. We will attempt to see at least 12 species on this tour. The first leg of the trip takes us to the eastern slope of the cascades where Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine dominate the landscape. Here we will search for the White-headed, Black-backed, and American three-toed Woodpeckers along with other cascade specialties. We will be in the shadow of the Three Sisters Mountains, all of which are over 10,000 feet in elevation.

Our next destination is Oregon's vast sagebrush steppe region. Malheur National Wildlife Refuge serves as a critical stopover point for shorebirds, passerines, and waterfowl as they travel north to breed. The flooded agricultural fields, lush lake edges, and managed impoundments are all fantastic birding locations. We hope to see Black-necked Stilts, White-faced Ibis, Franklin's Gulls, Sandhill Cranes, and many more birds in this vital refuge nestled on the Columbia Plateau. The birds are amazing, but the geological formations and vast landscape make this a must visit destination.

The Klamath Falls area is our next destination. Here we will search for more migratory birds in such areas as Modoc Ridge, Moore Park, and even Crater Lake National Park. Migration can be seen in real time here along the lakes and ridges. We hope to see such birds as Oak Titmouse, Gray Flycatcher, Hermit Warbler, Lewis's Woodpecker, and many others.

Our final leg of the trip spends ample time on Oregon's famous coastline. The rock formations offshore are beautiful to look at but also provide safe nesting areas for coastal breeding birds. We will search for Tufted Puffin, Pelagic Cormorant, American Dipper, Pacific Wren, and Marbled Murrelet. It would be a shame not to search for some delicious seafood along the way as well! A relaxing few days on the coast is a great way to wrap up an amazing tour of Oregon.

If you have ever been curious about the natural wonder of the Beaver State, now is the time. We should see over 200 species of birds on this trip. Oregon has many great mammals too, with Elk, Mule Deer, Yellow-bellied Marmot, Humpback Whale, Bighorn Sheep and maybe even the American Badger. The mountains, deserts, and coastline await us as we take a tour of "Grand Oregon".

May 17, Day 1: Arrival and welcome dinner

Travel and arrive in Portland, Oregon at the Portland International Airport (PDX). Transfer to the Hampton Inn Portland Airport via the hotel's 24-hour shuttle from the airport. Gather in the evening at 6 P.M. for an orientation and welcome dinner with your leaders.

NIGHT: Hampton Inn Portland Airport

May 18, Day 2: Timberline Lodge, Cascade Mountains, transfer to Sisters

Depart early for the Mount Hood National Forest and Timberline Lodge. We will be looking for Sooty Grouse, Varied Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, and Hermit Warbler along the way. The afternoon we will travel to Sisters, Oregon birding enroute. Afternoon birding may include stops at Timothy Lake and Haystack Reservoir. Birds we hope to see are Black-necked Stilt, Barrow's Goldeneye, White Pelican, and Black-billed Magpie. Sisters will be our destination for the evening.

NIGHT: Best Western Ponderosa Lodge



Mt. Hood © Kevin Burke

May 19, Day 3: Willamette National Forest

Today is a woodpecker day. We will travel into the Willamette National forest in search of 7-8 species of woodpeckers including: White-headed, Black-backed, American Three-toed, and Red Breasted Sapsucker. This will be a fun day. Other possible birds are Pinyon Jay, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Cassin's Vireo.

NIGHT: Best Western Ponderosa Lodge

May 20, Day 4: Cascade foothills cleanup, Introduction to Shrub Steppe

Our destination today is Hines, a small municipality nestled at the base of the Steens mountains. We will begin our day by tracking down anything we may have missed in the Sisters' area. Once satisfied, our Eastward journey will include stops at Farewell Bend Park for species such as California Quail and California Scrub-Jay. We will most likely have lunch at the Brothers Rest Area where we could see Sage Thrasher and Brewer's Sparrow. Our final stop will most likely be Riley Pond in Harney County. Here we could get our first glimpses of White-faced ibis, American Avocet, and several waterfowl species.

NIGHT: Best Western Rory and Ryan Inn



Mule Deer at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge © Kevin Burke

May 21, Day 5: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Today will explore Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Malheur has long been a famous birding destination for any North American birder. The flooded agricultural fields, high desert, and lush

lake edges make it a crucial stopover point for migrating birds. Birds we hope to see today are Sandhill Crane, Marsh Wren, Sora, American Bittern, Western Grebe, Black-necked Stilt, over tens species of waterfowl and shorebirds, and many more. This will be an exciting highlight day of the tour!

NIGHT: Best Western Rory and Ryan Inn

May 22, Day 6: Summer Lake, Klamath Falls area

This morning we will wake up and head westward to the Klamath Basin. We will make time to chase any rarity that may have shown up in the last day or two. Then, heading west out of Hines we will make various stops as birds appear, but our goal for the morning is the Summer Lake Wildlife Area. This refuge was Oregon's first wetland focused wildlife area. The massive 29 square mile refuge has a nice loop drive. Birds we hope to see here are Snowy Plover, Trumpeter Swan, Red-necked Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, Swainson's Hawk, and many more. After lunch we will head to Klamath with the potential to stop at Modoc Ridge to see what birds are actively migrating North.

NIGHT: Running Y Resort

May 23, Day 7: Klamath Falls area, Crater Lake

Today we will explore the Klamath Falls area. We will stop at Moore Park in the morning to look for White-headed Woodpecker, Oak Titmouse, and Mountain Chickadee. A second stop at Modoc Ridge will hopefully hold Lewis's Woodpecker, Hermit Warbler, Dusky Flycatcher, and many more migrants. The afternoon is based on how the morning birding goes. We may explore more areas in the Klamath Falls area or visit Crater Lake National Park. Crater Lake is known for its immense beauty, and the raucous Clark's Nutcracker.

NIGHT: Running Y Resort



Lewis's Woodpecker © Kevin Burke

May 24, Day 8: Coastal Range, Pacific Ocean

We head to the coast for the remainder of the tour today. The beautiful cascade mountains give way to dramatic coastlines. If we didn't visit Crater Lake the day before we will certainly do so today. We will hopefully find the Acorn Woodpecker in Roseburg, potentially giving us 12 species for the trip. Wrentit is also a possibility today further towards the coast. We will finish the day in the beautiful coastal town of Bandon.

NIGHT: Windemere on the Beach

May 25, Day 9: Coastal birding & Oregon Islands, Our first full day of coastal birding

We will visit many coastal sites today including Bullards Beach State Park. Here we will look for Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, and many more coastal species. The coastal

thickets could have Evening Grosbeak, Wrentit, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Birding will be a little easier today. A highlight of the day will be hiking at Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge where we will look for Tufted Puffins.

NIGHT: Windemere on the Beach

May 26, Day 10: Sea Lion Caves, Heceta Head, Newport

More coastal birding and beautiful scenery is in store today as we transfer to Newport. We will be stopping at many beautiful spots along the coast. A stop at Sea Lion caves to witness the many California Sea Lions is always a treat. Heceta Head may have Marbled Murrelets, or an American Dipper. Varied Thrush is also possible today as we dip into the coastal forests.

NIGHT: Hallmark Resort Newport



California Sea Lion © Kevin Burke



Black Oystercatcher © Kevin Burke

May 27, Day 11: Yaquina Head, Boiler's Bay, Coastal birding

Today we will explore the coastal areas around Newport. We will visit Yaquina Head, Devil's Punchbowl State Park, and Boiler's Bay State Park for some beautiful scenery, and lovely coastal birding. If we have time, we may run up to Mary's peak to try for Mountain Quail. The coastal birds we hope to see today are Pacific Wren, Harlequin Duck, Western Flycatcher, and Glaucous-winged Gull.

NIGHT: Hallmark Resort Newport

May 28, Day 12: Return to Portland, Our last full day of the tour

Today, we head back to Portland. We leave a little more open time to chase any rarity that may have shown up in the area or to try again for any species we may not have seen. Either way, we will have some great birding and scenery again as we round out the tour.

NIGHT: The Hampton Inn Portland Airport

May 29, Day 13: Departure Day

You are free to leave at any time today.

ESSENTIAL TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR SIZE: This tour is limited to 12 tour participants.

TOUR LEADER(s): This tour is led by **Kevin Burke** and **additional VENT guide**.



Kevin Burke's lifelong passion for nature began in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, where he grew up exploring the forests and rivers of Shenandoah National Park. Known in childhood as the “Hellgrammite Kid” for his curiosity about the creatures beneath river rocks, Kevin developed an early fascination with the natural world. Summers spent in Rhode Island with his grandmother—who taught him to identify feeder birds—sparked a love for birding that never faded.

Kevin studied Ecotourism and Conservation Ecology at the University of Idaho, where he built on his early experience and formalized his path in conservation and guiding. For nearly 20 years, he has led birding trips across the United States, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic, and has birded in many other countries including Portugal, Colombia, The Bahamas,

and Canada. His tours reflect not only expertise but also an infectious enthusiasm that connects people to nature.

Now based in Hendersonville, North Carolina, Kevin enjoys kayaking, hiking, and birding with his wife and two children in the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains—often paddling the French Broad River together near their home.

TOUR COSTS & PAYMENT INFORMATION

TOUR FEE: \$6,090 per person based on double occupancy or **\$7,520** for a person requiring single accommodation. This includes all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 13, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, all ground transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does **not** include airfare to nor from the starting/ending city; however, flights within the tour (if any) are included. The fee also excludes laundry, personal expenses, and other items of a personal nature. For information about gratuities, please see the “TIPPING” sub-section below.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: You may register for this tour through the VENT [website](#) or by calling our office (512-328-5221). The deposit for this tour is **\$500** per person. We accept MasterCard and Visa

PAYMENTS: All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard or Visa), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days (January 17, 2027) prior to the tour departure date.

EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make arrangements to arrive early or extend your stay, please contact the VENT office at least two months prior to your departure date. We can handle the hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

FUEL SURCHARGES: Our prices are based on fuel prices at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TIPPING: An important part of the value of a VENT tour is knowing that tips for local service providers at our destinations—restaurant staff, hotel staff, drivers, local guides, and various other support staff—are included in your tour fee. If you would like to offer any of your local guides an additional tip, \$5 to \$10 a day is a common amount.

Tips for your VENT tour leader(s) are **not** included, but it is customary to tip one or both if you feel that you have received exceptional service. To assist in your planning, we recommend tipping your VENT tour leader(s) \$15 to \$20 per day, or the equivalent of approximately 2–4% of the tour fee.

If you plan to give tips by cash, they should be given directly to your tour leader at the end of the tour and **not** sent to the VENT office. Some of our tour leaders use mobile payment applications such as Venmo, PayPal, and Wise. If you would like to use this method, please ask your tour leaders directly whether they can accept tips through such an application.

We emphasize that tipping is optional and that these amounts are only recommendations. The amount you decide to tip is based entirely on your experience and at your discretion.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

CANCELLATION BY PARTICIPANT:

- **More than 120 days prior to the tour start date:** A refund of all monies paid will be issued, less 50% of the deposit.
- **120 days or fewer prior to the tour start date:** No refund will be provided.
- **Optional add-ons:** Some tours offer optional add-ons that are designated as non-refundable. Any such add-ons are clearly identified as non-refundable at the time of booking. By selecting and purchasing an optional add-on, the participant acknowledges

and accepts its non-refundable status. Fees paid for non-refundable add-ons are not refundable under any circumstances, regardless of when the tour is cancelled.

This cancellation policy applies to all participants and all tours. Because unexpected events can occur, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance.

CANCELLATION BY VENT:

If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant.

If VENT cancels or delays a tour or any portion of a tour as a result of any Force Majeure event, VENT will use its reasonable best efforts to refund any payments on the balance of the tour fee to participant; provided that, VENT will have no obligation to provide a participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to a participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement. A ***“Force Majeure”*** event means any act beyond VENT’s control, including, without limitation, the following: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

This VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy does not apply to air tickets purchased through VENT or to any special arrangements, such as additional hotel nights, that fall outside of the services described in the tour itinerary.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

SUGGESTED OPTIONS: To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with **Redpoint Travel Protection** as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend its comprehensive Ripcord plan, which includes a medical evacuation benefit. With this in mind, it is important to note that medical evacuation is not offered by Redpoint as a stand-alone policy or benefit. For travelers not interested in comprehensive travel insurance, VENT recommends **Medjet** and its **MedjetAssist®** plan. Medjet is not an insurance company, and Medjet Assist is not an insurance product; rather, Medjet is a membership-based air-medical transport company specializing in moving hospitalized travelers from an admitting hospital to a medical facility of choice. Medjet does not provide medical evacuation service from the point of injury or illness; yet, the MedjetAssist plan offers robust enough travel protection to satisfy the medical evacuation insurance requirement in place for many VENT tours.

About Redpoint Travel's Ripcord Plan

Ripcord is a completely integrated travel insurance program with single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims. Critical benefits include comprehensive travel insurance for trip cancellation/interruption, medical evacuation from your point of injury or illness to your hospital of choice; medical expense coverage, death of pet, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or political or security reasons, waiver for pre-existing medical conditions exclusion, and a "Cancel for Any Reason" benefit. Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.*

For a price quote or to purchase travel insurance, please visit: [Ripcord Travel Insurance](#); or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help > Preparation and Insurance > Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

*To be eligible for the pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver and the optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) upgrade, you must purchase your policy within 15 days of making your first trip payment. The CFAR benefit provides reimbursement for 75% of covered costs and increases the policy premium by approximately 50%. Policies may be purchased either for the full value of the tour fee at the time of deposit or in segments as individual tour payments are made (deposit, second deposit, final balance, additional arrangements, etc.). The “pay as you go” approach reduces up-front expense and ensures that the amount paid toward your full policy premium is in proportion to the amount paid toward the full tour fee. If you choose to “pay as you go,” you must cover each deposit or payment within 15 days, and insure all non-refundable trip costs in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Redpoint considers COVID-19 illness as any other seasonal respiratory illness. Providing only a positive Covid-19 test result will likely not be considered a covered event per the terms and conditions of the company's policy. Redpoint maintains a [Coronavirus FAQ page](#) on its website that addresses questions and concerns travelers may have regarding COVID-19 and Redpoint's policy. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of relevant topics.

About Medjet’s MedjetAssist Plan

MedjetAssist is a membership program that functions like AAA for motorists. The company’s primary service is air medical transport. Critical benefits of MedjetAssist include a staff on call and ready to provide assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; all-expenses-paid air medical transport in the United States and internationally to medical facility of choice, regardless of medical necessity; repatriation of remains; and no exclusions for pre-existing conditions.

For travelers under 75, MedjetAssist may be purchased as Short-Term Memberships of 8, 15, 21, and 30 days, or Regular Annual Memberships from 1 to 5 years. For travelers 75–84, Medjet offers a Diamond Membership that is the same program but with a few additional conditions.

For a price quote or to purchase MedjetAssist, please visit: [Medjet.com/VentBird](https://www.Medjet.com/VentBird) or call 1-800-527-7478. Pricing is based on type and term of membership.

GETTING THERE & REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

AIR TRAVEL: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Per-person fees apply for each set of travel arrangements: \$50 domestic; \$75 international.* Many of our travelers choose to make their own air travel arrangements, but we emphasize the benefits to using our services. If you book your air arrangements yourself, Victor Emanuel Travel is unable to provide support in managing any flight delays and/or cancellations that could occur before and during a tour. When you purchase air tickets through Victor Emanuel Travel, our staff has ready access to your air ticket record and can provide assistance as problems arise. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

*An air ticket will be purchased by Victor Emanuel Travel on behalf of the traveler with the traveler's consent. A purchase is considered final upon receipt of payment. If a ticket is subsequently reissued at the behest of the traveler (i.e. voluntary change of plans), the same fee rates apply for the reissue process, in addition to any fees that may be charged by the airline.

BAGGAGE: Please limit baggage to one piece of luggage and one carry-on. The airlines now strictly enforce baggage regulations. Excess baggage charges, which can be substantial, are the personal responsibility of each participant. Please consult your pre-departure materials and/or airline to find out specific weight restrictions.

As a precaution against lost luggage, we suggest that you pack a change of clothes, toiletries, medications, important travel documents, optics, and any other essential items in your carry-on bag. Due to ever-changing circumstances in the government's attempts to

improve airport security, we recommend that you check the website of the [Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#) for information pertaining to permissible carry-on items.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

PASSPORTS: A passport is not required for this tour.

VISAs: Visas are not required for U.S. citizens traveling to this destination. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your consulate or embassy for the most accurate guidance.

IMPORTANT: The visa details above are current for U.S. citizens as of August 3, 2026. Because entry requirements can change without notice, we kindly remind all participants to double-check the latest information before traveling. Travelers using non-U.S. passports are responsible for confirming any entry requirements that apply to their home country.

WHAT TO BRING

CLOTHING: Layers will be key on this tour. Temperatures will range from lows in the high 30's to highs in the low 80's. Clothing that is comfortable, dries quickly, and breathable is recommended.

- **Pants:** A few pairs of pants are essential. Many people prefer lightweight pants made of nylon or other material, but denim, though not as comfortable, is certainly acceptable. Try not to bring cotton pants for our days in the field. Cotton pants for dinner are fine.
- **Field Clothing:** Outdoor stores such as Cabela's and REI carry field clothing that many birders find appealing. Pants and shirts made of midweight, yet durable materials with multiple pockets and ventilated seams are popular. Look for pants and shirts made from wool, polyester, or nylon.
- **Shirts:** Consider bringing several long-sleeved and short-sleeved T-shirts. A few button-up outer shirts will be essential to wear over your T-shirts. These styles include flannel shirts or button-up sun shirts.

- **Hat:** A hat for protection from the sun is essential. A wide-brimmed hat is best, but participants should bring a baseball cap at the very least. Also include a winter type hat of your choosing. A wool or synthetic “beanie” is highly recommended.
- **Sweaters and Coats:** Mild to chilly weather is anticipated on this trip, you should come prepared for cool mornings and mild to hot afternoons. Please bring a fleece insulating jacket. Even if we do not encounter rain, a waterproof jacket will be useful to block the wind

FOOTWEAR: Sturdy shoes are recommended. We will be hiking on some wide trails, roads, and short walks on the beach. Tennis shoes are fine. Waterproof hiking shoes or boots would be helpful, but not essential. You may want to bring casual shoes for evening dinner. Rubber boots are not necessary.

EQUIPMENT: Having the right equipment makes the travel experience more enjoyable. Below is a list of items that will ensure you are well prepared:

- **Daypack or belt pack**
- **Notebooks & Pens**
- **Polarized sunglasses**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Collapsible Walking Stick: A highly recommended item for those who have trouble walking**
- **Tissue packs**
- **Reusable Water Bottle**

Binoculars: We strongly recommend you bring a pair of good binoculars of 8x32, 8x42, or 10x42 magnification. Please do not bring mini-binoculars of any kind. Some people like them because they are small and lightweight; but they have an extremely small field of view and very poor light gathering power. You will find that 8x32 binoculars are compact and light enough.

Spotting Scopes: Your tour leaders will have scopes available for group use throughout the trip, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so.

DESTINATION INFORMATION & TOUR CONDITIONS

CLIMATE & WEATHER: Weather will be variable throughout. The mountains have average temperatures in the 60's for the day and 40's at night. Hines and Klamath Falls are roughly the same. The coast, on average, has slightly warmer temperatures. Ocean winds can be chilly in the mornings.

CONDITIONS: On this trip we will have early to mid-morning departures, typically leaving the hotel for the field around 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. The days will end in the late afternoon with at least an hour break before dinner each day. The days will consist of short to medium-sized hikes, with the longest being around two miles. All of the hikes are on flat ground with only slight inclines or declines. Some of the trail conditions will include rocky, gravel, sandy, and paved paths. We will travel between hotels a few times on this trip, some destinations are around 3.5 to 4 hours apart. The longest drive without stopping will be around 2 hours. We will have a chance for ample restroom breaks throughout each day.

We will enjoy some nice meals on this trip. The Oregon coast has wonderful seafood to enjoy, although choices for every preference and diet will be available at every meal. Your tour leader(s) will have snacks in the van, and they will be available at any point throughout the day. We will take a snack break at mid-morning every day. Dinners will be around 6:00 p.m. every night depending on availability of reservations. The accommodations will be good to very nice throughout our stays. There will be some brief opportunities for shopping.

CURRENCY & SPENDING: US Dollars. Credits cards are widely accepted.

INTERNET ACCESS: WIFI is available at all hotels

TIME: Oregon is 3 hours behind Eastern Standard Time

LAUNDRY SERVICE: Available at most of the hotels.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH: VENT follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for standard travel precautions, which includes vaccination against a variety of preventable

diseases. Among these so-called Routine Vaccinations are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult travelers), and Varicella (Chickenpox). You should also be up-to-date with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

If you are taking personal medication, prescription or over-the-counter, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

COVID-19: We continually emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. Although VENT no longer maintains any of its COVID-era prevention protocols, we strongly recommend best practices for protecting yourself and your fellow travelers against COVID-19 illness. These measures include receiving the primary series vaccinations for those eligible, staying “Up to Date” with COVID-19 booster shots, wearing high filtration N-95 or KN-95 masks when in airports and on airplanes, and avoiding risky social settings in the lead-up to your tour. These recommendations are firmly rooted in CDC guidance for avoiding COVID-19.

SUN EXPOSURE: The sun’s ultraviolet rays are dangerous under prolonged exposure (sometimes only a matter of minutes), even in winter and early spring. Anytime you are outdoors you will want to protect your skin, including your lips, eyes, nose, and ears. A severe sunburn is potentially very painful and will affect your level of enjoyment. Always protect yourself when outdoors and be sure to bring an ample supply of high SPF sunscreen and lip balm. We strongly recommend the use of ultra-violet blocking, polarized sunglasses.

BITING INSECTS: Mosquitos and ticks and small midges known as “no seeums” are in Oregon, and we may encounter them along the way. The leaders will make everyone aware of the certain insect we may occur before our time in the field, so proper precautions can be taken.

INSECT REPELLENTS: There are insect repellents for the skin and an insect repellent used to treat clothing that should not be applied to the skin.

Insect repellents for the skin are commonly available in three forms:

- **DEET:** (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide): A chemical compound that is marketed under various brand names (OFF!®, Cutter™, Ultrathon™, etc.) and offered in a variety of formulations including sprays, lotions, time-release preparations, and disposable wipes. The formulations will state a percentage of the active ingredient DEET on the packaging. DEET may be applied to exposed skin directly and/or sprayed on clothing. Please be careful when applying DEET as it can damage plastics and lens coatings.
- **Picaridin:** A synthetic formulation that is derived from piperine, a substance found in plants that produce black pepper.
- **Herbal insect repellents:** Various mixtures of organic ingredients such as oils from eucalyptus, citronella, cedar, and other herbs. The herbal repellents are more difficult to categorize because of the difference in ingredients from one brand to another. There is considerable variation in their effectiveness.

Insect repellent for clothing is marketed in one approved formulation:

- **Permanone® (Permethrin):** is an odorless spray-on repellent that may be used for pre-treatment of clothing, gear, and tents. It should not be used directly on the skin or sprayed on clothing while it is being worn. The pre-treatment process requires a number of hours to complete and must be done outdoors, so it is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment must be repeated more often than commercial treatment using Insect Shield® technology. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online.
- **Insect Shield® apparel:** Clothing pre-treated with Permanone is made by a variety of manufacturers. It is available for purchase from some sporting goods suppliers. The clothing is advertised as retaining its repellency for up to 70 washings.

The US EPA offers a search tool to help choose a repellent that is best for a particular situation. For example, some repellents work for mosquitoes, but not for ticks.

<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/which-insect-repellent-right-you>

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta Georgia. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

SUGGESTED READING & TRIP PREPARATION

A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

FIELD GUIDES:

Birds

Sibley, David Allen, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. 2nd Edition. Knopf: 2014

Irons, Dave, *ABA Field Guide to the Birds of Oregon*. Scott & Nix, Inc: 2018

Mammals

Eder, Tamara, *Mammals of Washington and Oregon*. Lone Pine: 2002

CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY APPS & ONLINE RESOURCES:

eBird: Among the largest and most successful citizen science projects in existence, eBird is an essential tool in promoting bird study and conservation. Among a range of benefits, eBird allows users to keep a variety of lists in a single application. When taxonomic splits are

incorporated, lists are automatically updated. Additionally, trip leaders can share daily lists, so one only need accept a shared list and it will upload to your files! **Highly recommended.**

MERLIN BIRD ID: Merlin is an app designed as a birding coach for beginning and intermediate bird watchers. Excellent for use in the field, Merlin asks the observer a series of questions regarding his or her bird sighting, including date and location, and color, size, and behavior of a bird. Merlin then processes the viewer's responses to present a shortlist of possible identifications, from which the user can choose the likely bird. Species profiles include a brief physical description, photographs, and sound samples. The Photo ID feature allows anyone with a camera to snap a photo and obtain a list of suggestions. Merlin's Sound ID feature allows identification of birds through audible recognition. To use Merlin, download the app, followed by the appropriate regional "pack."

TERMS, CONDITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., a Texas corporation, and/or its agents (together, "**VENT**") act only as agents for the participant in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in airfare or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the participant, as tour rates only provide for arrangements for the time stated.

VENT reserves the right (i) to substitute hotels of similar category, or the best reasonable substitution available under the circumstances, for those indicated and (ii) to make any changes in the itinerary that are deemed necessary by VENT or which are caused by third party transportation schedules (i.e. railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, etc.).

VENT reserves the right to substitute leaders or guides on any tour. Where VENT, in its sole discretion, determines such substitution is necessary, it will notify tour participants.

VENT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure with or without cause or good reason. See the VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy set forth above.

Tour prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on August 3, 2026 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change thereto.

VENT reserves the right to decline any participant's Registration Form and/or refuse to allow any participant to participate in a tour as VENT deems reasonably necessary, in its sole discretion. VENT also reserves the right to remove any tour participant from any portion of a tour as VENT deems necessary, in its sole discretion, reasons for such removal include but are not limited to, medical needs, injury, illness, inability to meet physical demands of a tour, personality conflict or situations in which such removal is otherwise in the best interest of the tour, the tour group and/or such participant. A participant may also voluntarily depart from a tour. If a participant is removed from a tour or voluntarily departs from a tour, such participant will be responsible for any expenses associated with such removal or departure, including but not limited to, transportation, lodging, airfare and meals, and VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any such removed or departed participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by such participant.

Baggage is carried at the participant's risk entirely. No airline company, its employees, agents and/or affiliates (the "**Airline**") is to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not on board the Airline's aircraft. The participant ticket in use by any Airline, when issued, will constitute the sole contract between the Airline and the purchaser of the tickets and/or the participant. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for VENT tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airlines Reporting Corporation.

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07/25/26 Kevin Burke

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