

INDIA

Birds, Wildlife, and Culture

28.66° N - 26.52° N

Feb 7 - 22, 2027



Wild **LATITUDES**
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

INDIA

Birds, Wildlife, and Culture

Greetings, Fellow Explorer!

Journey into some of India's most wild & remote regions... visit its word-famous landmarks... dine on delicious cuisine as diverse as the country itself.

India: a country of contrast and exotic cultures that coalesce to form one of the richest, most fascinating destinations on Earth. Join Wild Latitudes on this 16-day adventure, where you'll experience the modern iteration of this ancient land. India... the home of Gandhi... the land of Kipling, yet make no mistake, wild India still exists... a land where Tigers still wander the jungles and Leopards prowl through vine-covered temples, hunting their prey by moonlight...

Our tour begins in the vibrant city of Delhi, where we'll bird urban greenspaces, visit its famous markets, and have our first taste of authentic Indian Cuisine at one of the city's finest restaurants.

Next, we'll board a first-class train bound for the foothills of the Himalayas, and travel up into the hills of Kumaon to bird the avian-rich forests surrounding Nainital. Here, birds like the **Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie**, **Rufous-bellied Niltava**, **Black-headed Jay** and **Himalayan Woodpecker** all await, plus so many more! Our next stop is **Corbett National Park**, home to a plethora of birds and wildlife and a primary haunt of the magnificent **Bengal Tiger**. Here too live **Asiatic Elephants**, **Barking Deer**, the rare **Indian Leopard**, and birds like the **Blue-throated Barbet**, **Crested Serpent Eagle** and the **Great Hornbill**.

Next we travel by air to **Guwahati** and then overland to our next lodge located near **Kaziranga National Park**, in the State of Assam. Home to the world's largest population of the **Great One-horned Rhinoceros**, Kaziranga NP is one of India's national crown jewels. While here, early one morning, we'll travel into the park *on Elephants* to see these magnificent Rhinos up close... truly a once in a lifetime experience. As we further explore Kaziranga, we'll no doubt see **Hog Deer & Swamp Deer**, **Wild Water Buffalo**, **Indian Boar**, and **Asiatic Elephant**. Kaziranga is also an **Important Bird Area**, and is home to birds like the **Black-necked Stork**, **Spot-billed Pelican**, **Oriental Pied & Wreathed Hornbills** and rare **Pallas's Fish Eagle** just to name a few.

After four nights in Kaziranga, we return to Delhi, then after a night to refresh, head south to **Agra**, where we'll visit the most majestic monument to love in the world: the **Taj Mahal**. From here we head to Bharatpur, to bird one of the most significant wetlands in all of Asia, **Keoladeo National Park**. Its wetlands serve vast numbers of birds, including jacanas, kingfishers, a myriad of ducks and even the **Sarus Crane**. A visit to these world-class wetlands is a delightful way to end the birding portion of our tour. Finally, we head back to Delhi for our last night together, with one last free day to explore the markets, temples and/or museums of this amazing city.

This tour is sure to be as unforgettable as it is exotic! We hope you'll join us!



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

info@wildlatitudes.com 503-714-3504

TRIP DETAILS

Start Date: February 7, 2027

Duration: 16 days

Number of participants: Max of 12

Fee: \$7,195 per person

Deposit: \$3,500

Single Supplement: \$1,600

Trip Leader: Steve Robertson & Chris Payne

Activity Level: Moderate

Included:

- Double-occupancy lodging
- Ground and water transportation
- Breakfasts, lunches, and some dinners
- Excursions and park fees
- Guiding services

Not Included:

- Flights
- Some dinners
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal items
- Optional gratuities for guides



ITINERARY

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

Day 1 - Feb 7 - Group arrives in Delhi

Group is welcomed to Delhi at the airport by their Wild Latitudes & local guides, and after brief introductions, we transfer to the very comfortable hotel then settle in for an evening of rest after the long flight.

Lodging: [Claridges Hotel](#)

Day 2 - Feb 8 - Birding Urban Greenspaces, visit Street Market

Today will be a casual day to help everyone ease into the time zone. After breakfast, we'll meet to go over the tour, then we'll head out to bird a nearby greenspace. We'll return to the hotel for Lunch, followed by a wonderful tour of local markets on rickshaws. You'll have the chance to buy Indian spices, textiles, and hand-made souvenirs. We'll return to the hotel in the late afternoon with time to refresh, go over our bird list, and enjoy the Indian cuisine at our hotel's restaurant.

Lodging: [Claridges Hotel](#)



Indian Paradise-Flycatcher

Day 3 - Feb 9 - Travel by Train North-east, then on to Our lodging near Corbett NP

Today is a largely a travel day. After breakfast, we catch a morning train heading NE towards Corbett NP, then load vehicles for the final bit of the journey. We plan to arrive at our jungle lodge in time to bird the grounds before dinner, looking for **Oriental Scops Owl**, **Redstarts**, **Blue Throated Barbet**, **Plum Headed Parakeets** and more. As always, we'll gather for our bird list and dinner before retiring for the night.

Lodging: [Jim's Jungle Retreat](#)

Day 4 - Feb 10 - Exploring Corbett National park

After coffee at camp, we load into our open-air rigs to venture into **Corbett National Park** for a morning of Indian Safari. The plan today is to make the most of our time in the park, so we'll have a packed breakfast to help give us an early start.

India's very first national park, (Jim) **Corbett NP** was established in 1936 to protect the forests and wildlife of Northern India. Over 200 sq. mi. in size and mostly forested, the park also has extensive grasslands, riverine systems, marshes, hills and a large lake, together providing a wealth of habitat.

Perhaps best known for its large population of Bengal Tigers, Corbett NP is also home to **Indian Leopard**, **Asiatic Elephants**, **Spotted & Barking Deer**, and many more mammals that we could see while here. The park is also a birding hotspot and one of the most Important Bird Conservation Areas in the country, with almost 600 species of birds being recorded here. A few of the avian goals here include the **Green Bee-eater**, **Blue-throated Barbet**, **Himalayan Flameback** and the impressive **Great Hornbill**. The Oriental Magpie Robin and Greater Coucal should also be present, and with luck, we may even see the **Brown Fish Owl** and the **Crested Serpent Eagle**. Of course we'll keep our eyes peeled for all other wildlife as well, and we have good chances of seeing deer such as the **Sambar**, **Indian Muntjac** and **Spotted Deer** while here.

We'll return to camp for lunch, then head back into the park in the early afternoon. Whenever we're in Corbett, **Bengal Tigers** are always possible to be seen, and we have good chances of a sighting today. But they are just one of many wonderful species here! Corbett is also home to three species of hornbills, the **Indian Grey**, the **Oriental** and the aforementioned **Great Hornbill**. Bee-eaters are always a crowd-pleaser, and several beautiful species can be found in or near Corbett NP, including the **Chesnut-headed**, **Blue-tailed** and the **Small Green Bee-eater**. Many, many more birds are possible, including the stunning **Kalij Pheasant** and the **Crested Serpent Eagle**. After a fun-filled day of birding and wildlife viewing, we'll return to camp, and gather in the evening for dinner and to review our sightings.

Lodging: [Jim's Jungle Retreat](#)

Day 5 - Feb 11 - Exploring New Regions of Corbett National Park

After breakfast, our plan today is to bird the rich boundary areas surrounding the park, as these hotspots can yield specialties such as the highly sought-after **Ibisbill**. We will fill the day in search of **wallcreepers**, **waders**, **kingfishers**, **buntings**, **pipits**, **sunbirds**, **dippers**, **lapwings**, **White-backed**, **Red-headed** & **Slender-billed Vultures**, etc. We'll have lunch in a local café and come back to our lodge well before dark for dinner.

Lodging: [Jim's Jungle Retreat](#)

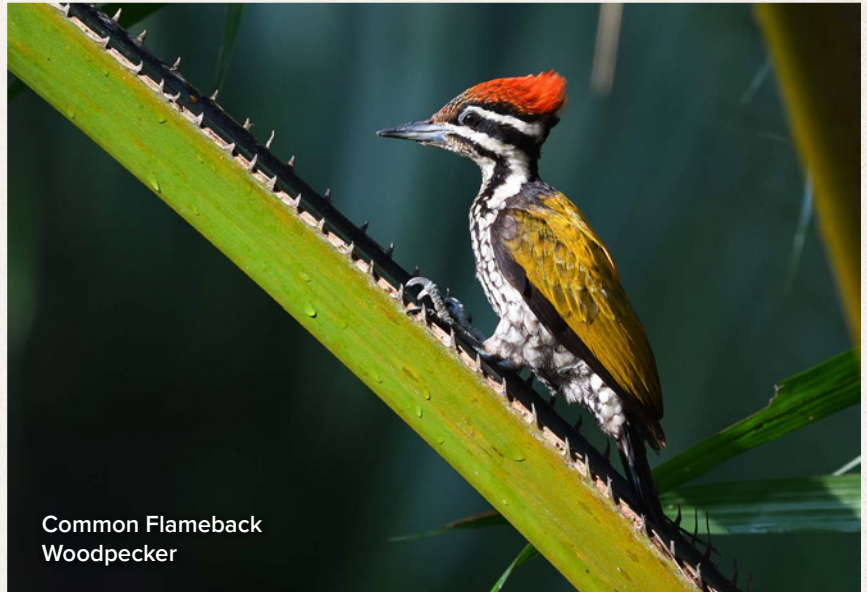


Asian Green Bee-eater

Day 6 - Feb 12 - Birding our Way to Nainital

Today we'll offer an option birding outing: Those who wish can depart the hotel early with a packed breakfast to bird the area of **Sattal**, where Species such as the **Great Barbet**, **Greater & Lesser Yellow-nape woodpeckers**, **Long-tailed** and **Scarlet Minivets**, **Himalayan**, **Mountain & Ashy Bulbuls**, **Blue-winged Minlas**, **Red billed Leotrix**, **Rufus-gorgeted Flycatcher**, and

the **Himalayan Bluetail** are all possible. After our outing, we'll all re-gather back at the hotel, load up our rigs and head out to our next lodging.



Common Flameback Woodpecker

En route to Nainital, we'll take a moment to step back in time to learn about **Jim Corbett**, one of Kumaon's most famous historic figures. Born in India of British decent, Corbett grew up hunting & fishing in the wilds of Kumaon, learning the art of tracking at a very early age. These skills served him and his community well, when, as an adult, he took on the forbidding task of hunting down a number of Tigers that had turned to humans for their prey. His exploits can be read in a number of his books, the most famous being *Man-eaters of Kumaon*. Today we'll get to visit his home in Nainital, which is now a modest museum dedicated to his life.



Indian Roller

Royal Bengal Tiger



After checking into our hotel, time-permitting we'll do a bit of evening birding near the hotel. The forests surrounding Nainital are alive with the sounds of birds, like the scolding **Black-headed Jay** and the ever-present haunting call of the **Himalayan Woodpecker**. Many, many birds call these forests home, including the **Slaty headed Parakeet**, **Yellow-billed Blue Magpie**, **Blue-Whistling Thrush**, **White-tailed Nuthatch**, **Rufus Sibia** and the beautifully-plumaged **Rufous-bellied Niltava**. We'll spot as many as we can before heading back to our hotel, where we'll gather for dinner and to add birds to our list before heading to bed.

Lodging: [Naini Retreat](#)

Day 7 - Feb 13 - Birding the Forests and Lake Near Nainital

Today we leave early (after coffee!) and make a short drive to **Pangoot**. Here we look for special birds such as the **Cheer & Koklass Pheasants**, **Green & White-browed Shrike-babbler**, **Rufus bellied Woodpecker**, **Coal Tit**, **Green-tailed Sunbird**, and **Maroon Oriole**. We'll want to keep an eye on the sky as well, as we have good chances of seeing **Bearded & Himalayan**

Plum-headed Parakeet



Griffon Vultures while in this region. We'll have breakfast in the field and spend the morning birding this avian-rich area, then return to our hotel for lunch.

After lunch and a little time to refresh, we take another short drive to **Chanfi**. Here we look for **Rufus-bellied & Small Niltava**, **Himalayan Rubythroat**, **Himalayan Prinia**, **Black-chinned Babbler**, **Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler**, and the lovely **Green-tailed Sunbird**. We'll return to our hotel before dark with plenty of time to gather to go over our bird list before dinner.

Lodging: [Naini Retreat](#)

Day 8 - Feb 14 - Travel Back to Delhi, overnight

Today is a day of travel. After breakfast, we load up and drive about 2 hours to the to catch an afternoon train back to Delhi. We then shuttle to our hotel and enjoy a dinner and a restful evening.

Lodging: [Claridges Hotel](#)

Our Commitment to Conservation

On every Wild Latitudes tour, we aim to make a positive conservation impact wherever we travel. We utilize the services of local guides and, when possible, stay in environmentally-sensitive, locally-owned lodges. Through our partnership with the Rainforest Trust, a portion of all international tour fees goes to purchasing rainforest acreage, for its protection in perpetuity. On every trip, we also make a contribution to a local conservation effort that works to protect a native species or ecosystem.

Greater Flamingos



Green-tailed Sunbird



Day 9 - Feb 15 - Fly to Guwahati, on to Kaziranga

After breakfast we shuttle to the airport to catch our short flight to Jorhat, where we are met by the staff of the Infinity Resort and transfer to the lodge, arriving there by late afternoon. The ~2 hours' drive will be filled with bucolic scenery as we travel through some of the loveliest country in India. We hope to arrive at Infinity by early afternoon, having stopped for lunch en route. After settling in and taking time to refresh, we'll meet our local birding guide and bird the surrounds of the lodge. Bird list & dinner to follow.

Lodging: [Infinity Resort](#)



Day 10 - Feb 16 - Exploration of Kaziranga National Park

After early coffee/tea, we load the open-air 4x4's and head into **Kaziranga National Park** for an early-morning adventure... we will ride Elephants that will allow us close-up views of the iconic **Indian One-horned Rhinoceros** (conditions permitting). This is an unforgettable experience, and one that helps insure the survival of this species, as our fees go directly to the park and the protection of the Rhino. We will then have a light breakfast in the field, and spend the rest of the morning birding Kaziranga NP.

Kaziranga NP is an UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a vast expanse of tall elephant grass, marshlands, and dense tropical broadleaf forests, crisscrossed by four major

rivers, including the powerful Brahmaputra. Kaziranga is protected by law from poaching, a necessary measure as the park is home to over 2,500 **Indian One-horned Rhinoceros**... 2/3 of the world's population! While in the park we can expect to see armed guards, as the park is patrolled day and night by rangers to protect this highly endangered species. The park also contains significant populations of other mammals, including **Asiatic Elephant, Hog Deer & Swamp Deer, Indian Boar**, and the largest population of the **Wild Water Buffalo** in the world. The stunning **Indian Leopard** is rarely seen, but is also possible here, as is the **Bengal Tiger**.

Kaziranga is also an **Important Bird Area**, and is home to a variety of bird species such as the **Black-necked Stork, Spot-billed Pelican, Nordmann's Greenshank, River & Whiskered Terns**, and the rare **Pallas's Fish Eagle**. The **Great Pied & Wreathed Hornbills** can also be found here, and many, many more!

After spending the morning in the park, we head back to Infinity for lunch and take a little time to refresh. We'll enter the park again in the afternoon to fill the day with more birding and wildlife viewing, and meet back at the lodge in the evening to review our list before we dine.

Lodging: [Infinity Resort](#)





Asiatic Elephant

Day 11 - Feb 17 - Kaziranga NP

Today we'll be sure to bird new regions of the park, including a few of its wetlands. The mighty **Brahmaputra River** flows through the park, and water birds such as **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Spot-billed Pelican**, **Greater Adjutant Stork**, **Black-necked Stork**, **Woolly-necked Stork** and the **Black Bittern** can all be seen here. We'll return to Infinity for lunch, then return to explore the park in the afternoon. We are in a very remote part of India, and in fact, most Indians never visit this far-eastern portion of their country. We plan

on visiting a local village or temple on our return to the lodge, after which we'll gather for drinks and to review our bird list before we have dinner.

Lodging: [Infinity Resort](#)

Day 12 - Feb 18 - Return to Delhi

Today we'll bird a bit before breakfast, then we pack up after we eat and leave our friends at Infinity and the beauty of Kaziranga to travel to Guwahati to catch our flight back to Delhi. We hope to arrive at our hotel with plenty of time to freshen up before dinner.

Lodging: [Claridges Hotel](#)

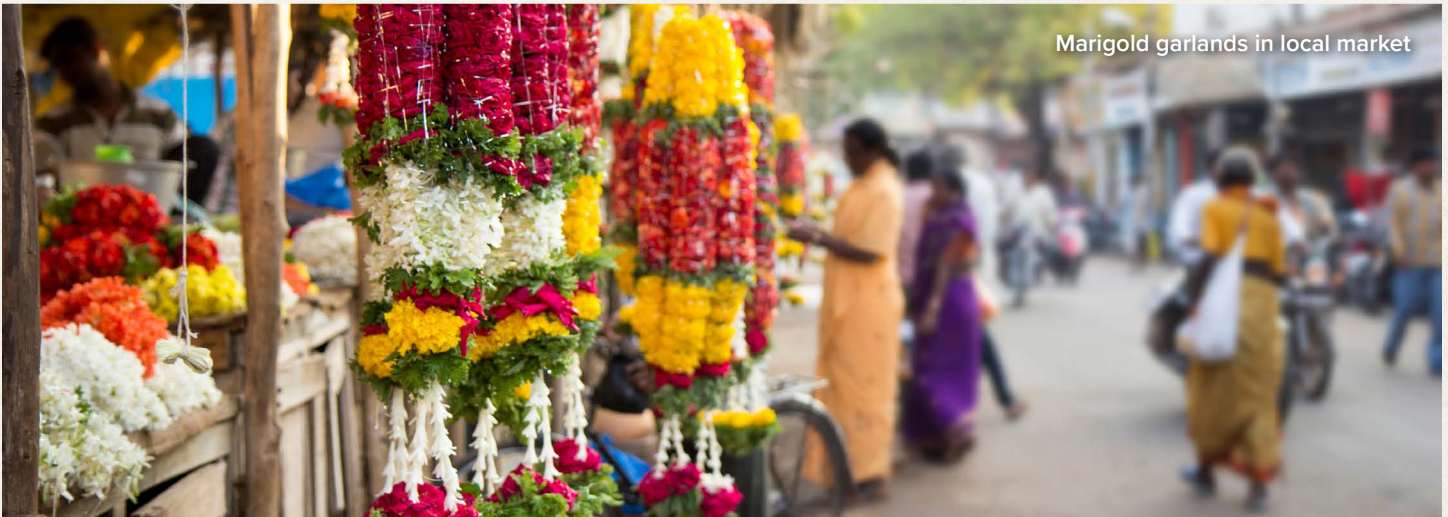


Oriental Pied Hornbill

Day 13 - Feb 19 - Day in Delhi

Today we'll slow the pace... The idea is for everyone to relax a bit and enjoy a free day to explore Delhi. We'll offer a few optional outings, including birding a nearby greenspace and a visit to the street markets, where a myriad of hand-made crafts can be found. We'll dine together at a nice local restaurant before calling it a night.

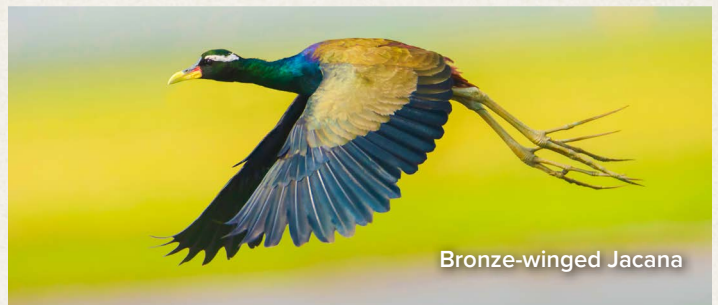
Lodging: [Claridges Hotel](#)



Marigold garlands in local market



Crimson Sunbird



Bronze-winged Jacana

Day 14 - Feb 20 - Agra, Taj Mahal & the Keoladeo Wetlands

After an early breakfast, we catch the fast, first-class train to Agra to visit the unparalleled wonder that is the **Taj Mahal**. In truth, mere words cannot do this magnificent edifice justice: while most landmarks seem smaller in real life, the Taj Mahal is the only one that to many, seems larger. We will spend the morning touring the site, revered as the most massive “monument to love in the world.” From here, we travel to Bharatpur, where we stay at one of the closest lodges to the wetlands of **Keoladeo National Park**, which, time-permitting, we'll get the bird a bit before dusk. We'll gather in the evening to go over our bird list and enjoy dinner at the Inn before calling it a night.

Lodging: [Birder's Inn](#)



Day 15 - Feb 21 - Morning Birding the Wetlands, Travel back to Delhi

After breakfast, we'll travel via rickshaws the short distance to the park, and spend the day birding this fabulous site. Within the borders of the Keoladeo National NP is a vast wetland of international importance for migratory waterfowl, where birds migrating down the Central Asian Flyway congregate before dispersing to other regions. An oasis of grasslands, woodlands and wetlands situated within a human-dominated landscape, almost 400 bird species have been recorded in an area of just over 7,000 acres. While here, we may see the **Spot-billed Pelican, Painted Stork, Sarus Cranes, Indian Black Ibis, Oriental Pratincole, Egyptian & Indian Vultures, Asian Green Bee-eater** and the **Indian Roller**, just to name a few! After a morning of birding, we'll have lunch back at the lodge, then load up our van and drive back to Delhi, arriving at our hotel with time to freshen up before we meet for our bird list and dinner.

Lodging: [Claridges Hotel](#)

Day 16 - Feb 22 - Morning Birding the Wetlands, Travel back to Delhi

Today's agenda we'll be determined by the desires of the group... the plan will be to meet after breakfast to go over our bird list one last time, then folks can enjoy a bit more free time in Delhi. We'll offer a few optional outings, including a last chance to visit to the local markets for one last chance to buy souvenirs. Group flies home in the evening, and we'll dine together at a nice local restaurant before heading to the airport where we'll say our farewells before catching our flights home.

YOUR GUIDES

STEVE ROBERTSON

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

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



CHRIS PAYNE

Chris has been immersed in the natural world his entire life. Growing up in rural Pennsylvania with two naturalists for parents, his first interest in wildlife was anything he could catch: frogs, salamanders, snakes, and the like. Once Chris discovered the world of birds, he was hooked. He soon began making lists of all the birds he could identify, both at home and when his family traveled. Each new bird that Chris encountered left him wanting to learn more about them.

It was during Chris's sophomore year at West Virginia University that he decided that spending time in nature had to be more than just a hobby. After graduating with a degree in biology, he pieced together bird-related field work for several years, conducting surveys for Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers, nest searching, hawkwatching, and assisting in geolocator research. After meeting his wife, Rebecca, Chris decided to return to school for an M.S. in biology, and graduated with an MS in Biology from Shippensburg University.

Leading nature tours is the best of both worlds for Chris: getting to work in nature surrounded by birds, but more importantly, getting to share that passion with others.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE PACE AND STYLE OF OUR TOURS

The primary goal of our trips is to experience and learn about the natural world, especially the region's birds and other wildlife, and of course, to have fun! As birding is often a primary focus of our tours, and birds are active in the morning, we will sometimes have early morning outings before breakfast. That said, our style of birding may not be ideal for hard-core "listers." We prefer to spend time observing the species we encounter, and learn a bit about their natural history, rather than rushing through the field to add the maximum number of species to our bird list. We also make diversions for interesting, non-avian wildlife, plants, geological wonders, and cultural activities. The pace of most of our trips is moderate, and we encourage anyone in good health to attend and enjoy the experience. Please contact us about if you need specific information on the types of physical activities on a tour and their physical requirements.

We strive to immerse participants in the local culture and to that end, wherever possible, we stay in locally owned and operated hotels that are designed and run in an environmentally sustainable way. Though some accommodations may be more basic than others, all are safe, clean and comfortable. We also utilize the services of local guides, visit local markets, and other culturally significant sites.

TOUR DATE AND TRIP LEADER CHANGES

Leaders and schedules are determined up to a year in advance of our tours. In the event that we have a change in a tour's dates or leaders, we reserve the right to do so, and will strive to inform participants as early in the process as possible. Additional leaders may be added to tours according to the group size, and will be specified in the tour itinerary. We also reserve the right to cancel any trip for which there are insufficient reservations.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE TOUR

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

- Send us an email at info@wildlatitudes.com
- Call us at 503-714-3504

Then we'll send you the link to our online registration form. You can choose to pay your deposit by credit card or check. See 'Deposit Policy' below.

DEPOSIT POLICY

A deposit is due at the time of registration. ***A deposit is the only thing that guarantees your place on the trip.*** Registration can be made over the phone with a credit card: 503-714-3504. *Note:* there is an additional 3.0% fee for credit card payments. This is only what we are charged by the credit card company.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Checks are happily accepted and should be made out to *Wild Latitudes LLC*. Include the tour name on the memo line of the check and send to:

Wild Latitudes, PO Box 25115, Portland, OR 97298.

PAYMENT POLICY

Full payment is required **90 days** prior to the tour departure date for international tours or any tour involving flights; and **30 days** prior to the tour departure date for local (i.e. in the Portland, Oregon area), van-based tours.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event a participant needs to cancel a reservation for any tour, the following policies will apply:

- **90 days** or more prior to tour departure date, the deposit will be refunded, minus an administrative fee of \$100.
- **Less than 90 days but more than 60 days** prior to tour departure date, all payments refunded, minus 50% of deposit.
- **Less than 60 days** prior to tour departure date, no refunds will be given.

We *strongly* recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself from unforeseen circumstances.

If for any reason Wild Latitudes cancels a tour prior to the start of the tour, full refunds—minus the cost of any internal/in-country airline tickets purchased and/or any non-refundable deposits or expenses already made by Wild Latitudes—will be given to all participants. In the event that the tour is canceled while underway due to unforeseeable events such as but not limited to natural disaster, military activities, social uprising, or other extremely dangerous conditions not within the control of Wild Latitudes, no refund will be issued.
