

PERU

BIRDS, WILDLIFE, & CULTRE

13.29° S



Sep 26 - Oct 8, 2027



Wild **LATITUDES**
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

PERU

BIRDS, WILDLIFE, & CULTURE

Greetings Fellow Traveler,

Peru—a land as rich in history as it is in natural beauty—is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world and offers some of the finest birding opportunities in all of South America. Join Wild Latitudes on this 12-day journey to explore and bird the wilds of Peru, from the Amazonian Rainforests of **Manu National Park** to the Altiplano of the Andes, and see and experience many of the magnificent Incan structures that remain shrouded in mystery to this day.

Peru is the home of the ancient Incan Empire, but few realize it also home to more than 1800 species of birds! We begin our tour in the vibrant city of **Cusco**, a wonderful town to explore in its own right, with a mix of Spanish-American architecture, filled with shops and restaurants offering local fare. From here, we'll visit the nearby Huacarpay Lagoon where we will be on the lookout for species such as **White-tufted Grebe**, **Plumbeous Rail**, and the stunning **Chilean Flamingo**. Next, we'll make our way to the **Cloud Forest**, then onward to **Manu National Park** in the Amazon Basin. We'll make a special trip en route to a lekking site for a chance to see the breeding display of the brilliant **Andean Cock-of-the-Rock**, the national bird of Peru.

From our base at our lodge in Manu NP, we'll venture out to bird the surrounding jungles and wetlands, looking for such avian prizes as the **Blue-banded Toucanet**, **Paradise Tanager**, **Fasciated Tiger-Heron**, and the **Amazon Kingfisher**. Here, even such sought-after species as the **Crested Quetzal** and **Sunbittern** are possible! We will also visit the **Parrot Clay Lick** via motorized canoes, where species like **Blue-headed Parrots**, **Orange-cheeked Parrots**, and **Red-and-green Macaws** gather to consume small pieces of clay for their nutritious minerals. We'll also visit Machuwasi Lake, another birding hotspot, in hopes of seeing unique species like **Horned Screamers** and the unique **Hoatzin**.

After our time in the Amazon, we return to Cusco for an introduction to the history of the amazing Inca civilization. We'll visit the astonishing **Incan Fortress of Sacsayhuaman** and learn its history from knowledgeable local guides, then travel through the **Sacred Valley** of the Incas, birding as we go, to the town of Aguas Calientes. From here, we get to explore the most magnificent of all known Incan cities, **Machu Picchu**.

We hope you'll join **Rebecca & Chris Payne** of Wild Latitudes to experience one of the most fascinating and bird-rich countries on Earth... Peru!

TRIP DETAILS

Start Date: Sep 26, 2027

Duration of Tour: 13 days

Number of participants: Max of 12

Fee for Main Tour: \$5,895 per person

Deposit: \$2,900

Single Supplement: \$995

Trip Leaders: Chris & Rebecca Payne

Included:

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

Not Included:

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



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

info@wildlatitudes.com 503-714-3504

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ITINERARY

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

Day 1 - Sep 26 - Arrival to Cusco & Exploration of City

Flights will arrive to Peru in the morning, where we will meet at Cusco Airport and make the short drive to our hotel. We will take the rest of the morning to get rested and refreshed before meeting for lunch at a nearby restaurant. Afterwards, we will be joined by our local guide who will familiarize us with the city of Cusco. We will walk to the town square together, learning the history and admiring the architecture of this beautiful city. Later, there will be more time to explore the town on your own time before we meet for dinner at the end of the day.

Lodging: [Hotel Rumi Punku](#)

Day 2 - Sep 27 - Birding at Huacarpay Lagoon & Sacred Garden

After breakfast at the hotel, we will travel to **Huacarpay Lagoon** south of Cusco. This location is well known for being home to many species of water birds and an important stopover site for migrants. We will be on the lookout for species such as **White-tufted**

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Grebe, Puna Teal, Plumbeous Rail, and Many-colored Rush Tyrant. Once we've finished at the lagoon, we'll head to the nearby **Sacred Garden**, where we'll be on the lookout for **Giant Hummingbirds, Black-tailed Trainbearers, and Bearded Mountaineers.** After this, it will be back to Cusco for lunch, and then you'll have the afternoon free to further explore the town, rest up, or do some birding on your own. We'll meet at the hotel in the evening and go over our bird list before having dinner together.

Lodging: [Hotel Rumi Punku](#)

Day 3 - Sep 28 - Journey to the Cloud Forest

Today we'll make our way to the Cloud Forest via the Manu Road, keeping our eyes out for birds along the way.



Many-colored Rush-Tyrant



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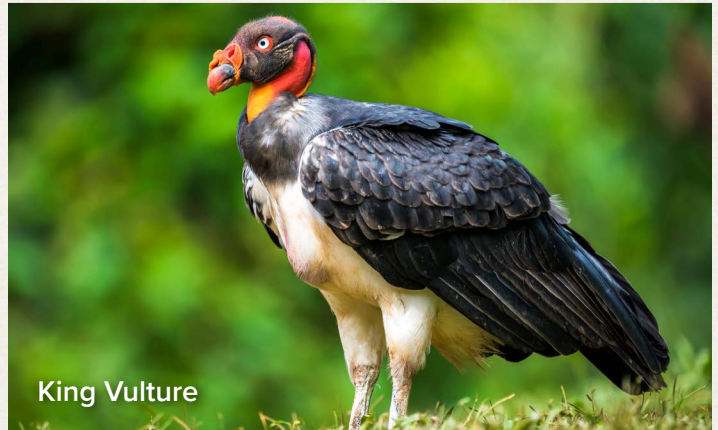
The first part of the drive will be through Puna habitat—a high-elevation, semi-arid grassland habitat unique to the Andes. This is a great place to see birds like **Andean Ibis**, **Andean Flicker**, **Sword-billed Hummingbird**, and possibly even a few species of **tinamous**. As we continue down the road, we'll make a stop at Paucartambo, an important colonial town under the Spaniards' regime, now known for its colorful festivals and dances. From here it is only a short distance to the entrance to **Manu National Park** and our first lodge, which we will arrive to in time for a delicious lunch. We'll spend the afternoon enjoying the bird feeders and trails of the lodge, which attract a wide variety of **hummingbirds**, **Andean Guans**, **Hooded Mountain Tanagers**, and other cloud forest specialties. We will have dinner at the lodge and get a good night's rest in anticipation of a big day of rainforest birding the next day.

Lodging: [Waygecha Cloud Forest Biological Station](#)

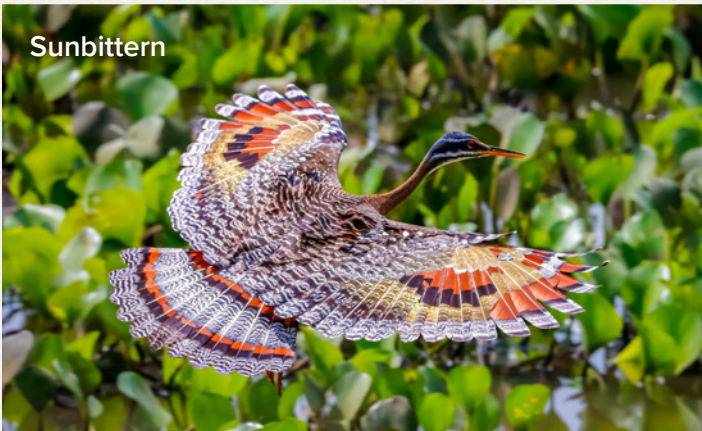
Sword-billed Hummingbird



King Vulture



Sunbittern



South American Tapir



Day 4 - Sep 29 - Birding the Manu Road

We'll begin the day by watching the birds fuel up at the feeders as we enjoy a nice breakfast of our own. Once we've had our fill, we'll head out to Manu Road with the



The Amazon Basin

goal of tracking down cloud forest specialties like **Blue-banded Toucanet**, **Gray-breasted Mountain-Toucan**, and **Andean Motmot**. Whenever we come across avocado trees, we'll be sure to look closely for both **Golden-headed** and **Crested Quetzals**, as well as the endangered **Gray Woolly Monkey**. With any luck, we may come across several mixed-species foraging flocks, full of woodcreepers, flycatchers, warblers, and tanagers—including the gorgeous **Paradise Tanager**. We'll continue our descent, stopping at various gardens and lodges along the way, eventually transitioning from cloud forest to the lowland Amazon Rainforest. At this lower altitude, we'll have the opportunity to see new species such as **King Vulture**, **Southern Emerald-Toucanet**, **Lemon-throated Barbet**, and a dozen or more species of hummingbirds! We will undoubtedly have many new birds to add to our list when we arrive to our new lodge and get settled in for the next couple of nights.

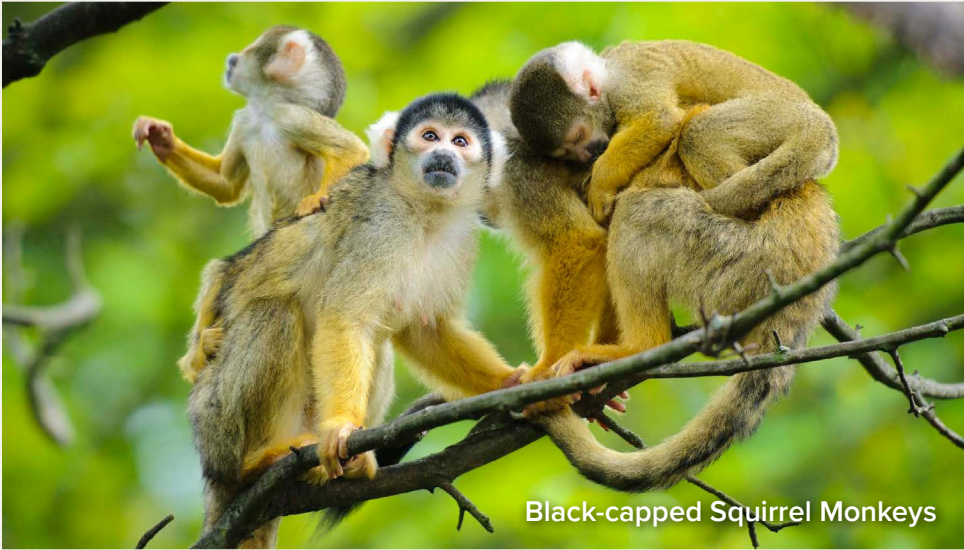
Lodging: [Manu BioLodge](#)

Day 5 - Sep 30 - Parrots Clay Lick & Machuwasi Lake

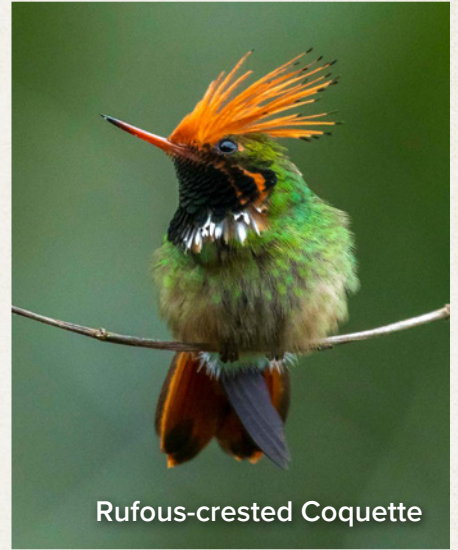
Today we will wake up early and board motorized canoes to take us down the Madre de Dios River to the **Parrot Clay Lick**, bringing our breakfast with us so that we can reach the site in time to see this spectacle of nature. Clay licks like this one are famous for having **parrots**, **parakeets**, and **macaws** visit to eat small pieces of clay in order to obtain minerals needed for digestion. Some species occasionally visit in large numbers, such as **Blue-headed Parrots** and **White-eyed Parakeets** while there is always an opportunity to see rarer species like the **Yellow-crowned Amazon**, **Chestnut-fronted Macaw**, or **Blue-and-yellow Macaw**. After spending some time here, we will move on to

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Black-capped Squirrel Monkeys



Rufous-crested Coquette



Three-striped Poison Frog



Paradise Tanager



Hoatzin



Crested Quetzal

To register for this tour, email or call: info@wildlatitudes.com, 503-714-3504

Machuwasi Lake, where we will bird from a wooden raft with hopes of seeing unique species like the **Hoatzin** and **Horned Screamer**. We'll return to the lodge for lunch and explore the trail system in the afternoon. We'll meet again in the evening to add the new birds to our list and enjoy another dinner together. After dark, there will be an opportunity to go on a guided night walk, searching for nocturnal birds and other animals.

Lodging: [Manu BioLodge](#)

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.



Red-and-green Macaws

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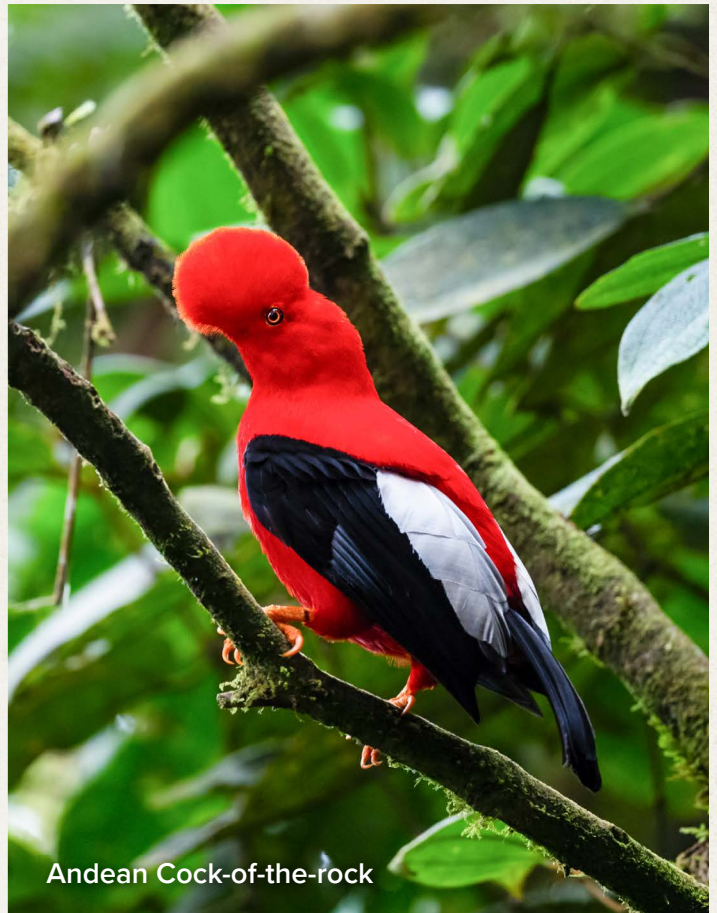
Day 6 - Oct 1 - More Rainforest Birding

After breakfast at the lodge, we will visit a garden with an antbird feeding station. Here the proprietors put mealworms into a quiet little corner that attracts several species of hard-to-see birds including **White-lined Antbird** and **Goeldi's Antbird** which are restricted to that region. We'll return to the lodge for lunch, then slowly start making our way back up the mountain, stopping at new sites as we go. Shortly after we cross back into the cloud forest, we'll come to our final lodge for the rainforest portion of the tour. We'll be sure to get there in time to take a walk before dinner, as there are sure to be plenty of new birds here and perhaps some mammals as well.

Lodging: [Cock-of-the-rock Lodge](#)



Periander Metalmark



Andean Cock-of-the-rock

Day 7 - Oct 2 - Cock-of-the-rock Lek & Cloud Forest Birding

We'll get the day started with a bang with a visit to the nearby **Andean Cock-of-the-rock** lekking site, where we can witness the flaming red-orange males put on display dances for any interested females that may be nearby. These unique birds are one of the most iconic avian species of the Andean rainforest and the national bird of Peru. We'll then

spend the rest of the day birding along Manu Road and near the lodge, focusing our efforts on any cloud forest specialties we may have missed on our way down. We'll return to the lodge at the end of the day to enjoy another delicious home-cooked dinner and go to sleep to the sounds of the rainforest for one final night.

Lodging: [Cock-of-the-rock Lodge](#)

Day 8 - Oct 3 - Journey Back to Cusco

We'll have one final breakfast in the rainforest, then begin our ascent up Manu Road, stopping from time to time for breaks and to view wildlife. We will aim to get back to Cusco by the afternoon, where we will have the opportunity for some rest and relaxation back at our hotel after a day that is mostly dedicated to travel. On this night, everyone will have a free evening in Cusco to enjoy dinner at their own pace, choosing from the many excellent restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.

Lodging: [Hotel Rumi Punku](#)



Sacsayhuaman

Day 9 - Oct 4 - Sacsayhuaman Ruins & Pisac Ruins

Today we will get our first taste of Incan culture. We'll begin by driving to **Sacsayhuaman**, the impressive Inca Fortress overlooking Cusco. A local guide will give us a tour and an introduction to the Inca's history. We'll then continue on to the village of Pisac, experiencing the fantastic Andean landscape as we gradually descend into the **Sacred Valley of the Incas**. On the way, we'll stop at a viewpoint and take in the majestic view of the surrounding snowcapped mountains. Once we reach Pisac, we'll take a guided tour of the archeological site, a vast former Inca town with huge terraces overlooking the valley. We'll then get lunch at a local restaurant before heading over to browse Pisac's famous handicraft market. We'll return to Cusco in the afternoon and meet later for dinner.

Lodging: [Hotel Rumi Punku](#)



Indigenous Peruvians in the Sacred Valley

Day 10 - Oct 5 - Journey to Machu Picchu

This is sure to be an exciting day. We'll get an early start to get to the Poroy train station where we'll board a train to take us to Aguas Calientes, also known as Machu Picchu Town. This will be a pleasant 3.5-hour ride through some stunning Andean scenery, with the final leg following the picturesque Urubamba River. We'll arrive in time to check-in to the hotel and have lunch before heading up for an afternoon visit to **Machu Picchu** itself, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. We'll have several hours to explore the site, learning all about its fascinating history from our knowledgeable local guide. If time permits, we may also do some birding around the site, which is home to several endemic species including the extremely localized **Inca Wren**. And of course, we'll always be keeping our eyes up for the iconic **Andean Condor**! Once we have all had our fill of this extraordinary site, we will head back down the mountain to Aguas Calientes for dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Lodging: [Casa del Sol Machu Picchu Boutique Hotel](#)



Llamas at Machu Picchu

Day 11 - Oct 6 - Return to Cusco

We will spend a little time birding along the Urubamba River in the morning, within walking distance of the hotel. This is a great place to see exciting birds like **Fasciated Tiger-Heron**, **Torrent Duck**, and **White-capped Dipper**! We'll get back on the train in the late morning, but this time we'll only go as far as the Ollantaytambo train station, about a 1.5-hour ride. Our driver will meet us there, and we'll go to a nice restaurant nearby for lunch. Then we'll begin to make our way back to Cusco, stopping once or twice along the way. We should arrive by late afternoon/early evening, and we'll again do dinner on our own.

Lodging: [Hotel Rumi Punku](#)



Day 12 - Oct 7 - Free Day in Cusco

Today you will have the whole day to explore Cusco on your own. You may choose to stroll through the artists' neighborhood San Blas, visit the Inca Museum, make your own chocolate at the workshop of Cusco's chocolate museum, buy souvenirs, or simply enjoy a well-deserved relaxed vacation day. We will offer an additional morning birding outing as well for anyone that just can't get enough of Peru's birdlife! Regardless of how you choose to spend your day, we'll all meet up in the evening to enjoy our final dinner as a group in a local restaurant.

Lodging: [Hotel Rumi Punku](#)

Day 13 - Oct 8 - Final Farewells

There may be a little free time in the morning before we drive to Cusco Airport. From here, we'll say our farewells before heading back home with many fond memories of Peru to accompany us.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

YOUR GUIDES

REBECCA PAYNE

From an early age, Rebecca has been avidly curious about the natural world. What started out as exploring the backyard of her childhood home led to an interest in exotic animals. While completing her B.A. in Zoo and Wildlife Biology, she was surrounded by teachers and mentors who nurtured her love for all things birds and birding. Through their encouragement, she focused her studies on the care of avian species. For several years, Rebecca worked in zoos across the country as an aviculturist, participating in breeding programs for endangered species, bird shows, and public outreach. Through these experiences, she discovered that her true passion lies in teaching others and fostering meaningful connections between people and wildlife.

This spring-boarded Rebecca into the world of environmental education. Combining this field with her love of exploring new places, she has enjoyed many fulfilling teaching roles, from New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory, to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, to Pennsylvania State Parks. All the while, she has had her binoculars in hand, using birds and avian ecology to bring people closer to nature.



Rebecca is excited to bring her experience to the nature-tour industry and share her love of birds and the environment with others.

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 is currently finishing his thesis at 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** 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.
