

SPAIN



April 1 - 13, 2025



Wild **LATITUDES**
WORLDWIDE NATURE TOURS

SPAIN

Birding, Natural History, and Culture

Oak woodlands, vast grasslands, rich river deltas, rocky mountain peaks, flowering meadows, and scenic coastlines... The natural beauty of Spain is as breathtaking as it is diverse. This variety of habitats also leads to an abundance of birdlife. Besides its resident birds, many migratory species pass through Spain, moving between Europe and Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar. With over 400 species, Spain is arguably the best birding destination in all of Europe!

Join Wild Latitudes on this 13-day exploration of Spain's southern regions of **Andalucía** and **Extremadura**, a journey sure to be filled with birds, wildlife, and wonderful cultural experiences.

We will begin our tour in **Seville** and a visit to the nearby **Doñana National Park**, where large flocks of **Greater Flamingos**, **White Storks**, **Eurasian Spoonbills**, and countless other water birds take advantage of this globally important wetland. Among the many land birds in Spain, we'll search for **Spanish Eagle**, **Iberian Magpie**, and **Iberian Gray Shrike**, all of which are endemic species, found here and nowhere else.

Special sites we will visit include the **Sierra de Andújar**, **Strait of Gibraltar**, and **Monfragüe National Park**. As we make our way through these and other locations, we'll be on the lookout for mammals in addition to birds. We may see **European Fallow Deer**, **Iberian Ibex**, **Eurasian Otter**, and hopefully even the rare **Iberian Lynx**. There will also be beautiful wildflowers, butterflies, and fascinating geology everywhere we go—something for every nature-enthusiast!

We will also immerse ourselves in the culture of Spain as we visit ancient **Roman sites**, **medieval towns**, and **Moorish palaces**, including the magnificent **Alhambra** in the city of Granada. We'll indulge in delectable **Spanish cuisine**, including tapas and fine wines, and experience the exuberant energy of a **traditional flamenco show**! Our journey ends in **Madrid**, a vibrant, modern city juxtaposed with its enchanting Gothic—revival architecture.

This delightful trip will leave you with a deep appreciation for Spain's natural and cultural wonders and memories you'll never forget.

EXTENSION TRIP: The Canary Islands

● **DATES: Apr 13-19.** Continue your travels with Wild Latitudes to the subtropical, biologically unique **Canary Islands**! We'll visit two of the islands: **Tenerife** and **Fuerteventura**. Their environments are wildly different, despite their proximity. The first part of our trip will be an exploration of Tenerife, with its lush forests and towering volcanic mountains. Later, we'll move to the desert island of Fuerteventura, which lies only 60 miles off the coast of Africa—a stone's throw from the great Sahara Desert. We'll search for endemic birds and other specialties across the varied fascinating landscapes of these Spanish islands.

TRIP DETAILS

Start Date: April 1, 2025

Duration of Main Tour: 13 days

Duration of Extension: 7 days

Number of participants: Max of 11

Fee for Main Tour: \$5,595 per person

Fee for Extension: \$2,695 per person

Deposit: \$2,800 (+\$500 for extension)

Single Supplement: \$1,095 (+\$750 for extension)

Trip Leaders: Chris and Rebecca Payne

Included:

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

Not Included:

- Flights
- 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



ITINERARY

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

Day 1 - Apr 1 - Arrive to Seville

Bienvenidos a España... Welcome to Spain! Flights into Seville airport should arrive by late morning. Your guides, Chris and Rebecca Payne, will greet you on arrival.

Once we are all together, and after introductions, we will make the drive to our first destination, the city of **Córdoba**. Here we will get our first taste of ancient European architecture, as we walk across a **Roman bridge** to the **Mezquita-Catedral**. This large mosque has elements of both Islamic and Catholic architecture, as it has changed hands between the Moors and the Catholics many times over the centuries.

From here, we will drive about an hour to our hotel, where we will have time to refresh before having dinner at their excellent restaurant.

Lodging: Los Pinos

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Day 2 - Apr 2 - Sierra de Andújar

Today we will explore the gorgeous **Sierra de Andújar**. These oak-covered hills provide the perfect habitat for the elusive **Iberian Lynx**, one of the rarest wildcats in the world. And if we keep our eyes open, we stand a decent chance of seeing one of these beautiful animals.

We will also be on the lookout for birds such as **Little Owls**, **Egyptian Vultures**, and the majestic **Spanish Eagle**. We will have a packed lunch from our hotel that we will enjoy at a scenic overlook. Our day will finish up back at the hotel with another delicious dinner, as we go over the day's bird and wildlife sightings.

Lodging: Los Pinos





Day 3 - Apr 3 - Road to Granada

Today we will pack up and head south towards the city of **Granada**. Along the way, time permitting, we'll make stops at **Fuente de Piedra** and/or **El Torcal de Antequera**. Fuente de Piedra is a lake that hosts a huge breeding colony of **Greater Flamingos**, while El Torcal provides some fascinating geology with its impressive limestone rock formations. We will arrive at our hotel early enough to enjoy some downtime in the afternoon. Later in the evening, we'll venture as a group into the city's old **Jewish quarter**, the Albayzín, where we will have time to enjoy street performances and browse local vendors. Then we will head to a local restaurant where we will be treated to a traditional **flamenco performance** after our meal.

Lodging: Washington Irving Hotel



Day 4 - Apr 4 - La Alhambra & Strait of Gibraltar

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll walk across the street to the world-famous **Alhambra**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will take a guided tour through this 13th century fortified palace, to learn about the history of the site and its exquisite Moorish architecture that has held up for so many centuries. We plan to spend several hours here to fully appreciate everything the Alhambra has to offer.

Later in the afternoon, we'll depart Grenada and head to Tarifa in the southern tip of Spain. We'll stop along the way to overlook the **Rock of Gibraltar**, with Africa in sight, only eight miles beyond across the Mediterranean Sea. We may even see migratory birds such as **Black Kites** or **White Storks** actively arriving to the European continent after spending their winter in Africa.

Lodging: Mesón de Sancho



Oak woodland habitat in a 'Dehesa'

Day 5 - Apr 5 - Birding the Strait of Gibraltar

We'll head out for a day of birding around Tarifa after breakfast. We'll visit rocky cliffs that are home to nesting **Eurasian Griffons**, open fields with **Zitting Cisticolas**, and coastlines where gulls, terns, and shearwaters can be seen. We'll also stop by a breeding colony of the endangered **Northern Bald Ibis**, its presence in southern Spain being a real conservation success story.

In the afternoon, we'll go to the ruins of the **Roman town of Baelo Claudia**, where we can walk down the original streets and view artifacts that are over 2,000 years old. We'll return to the hotel at the end of the day, where we will go over the bird list before dinner.

Lodging: Mesón de Sancho

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Greater Flamingos



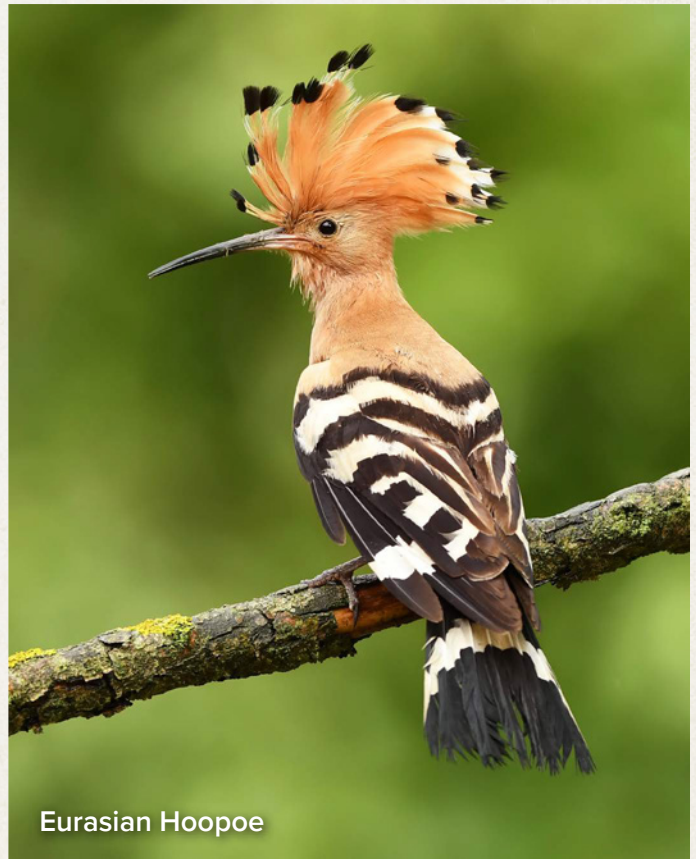
Iberian Ibex

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

Day 6 - Apr 6 - Los Alcornocales & Dehesa de Abajo

Today we will turn north and make our way back towards **Seville**. We will make several stops along the way, the first being in the nearby **Los Alcornocales**. These hills are characterized by cork oak forests and are home to many different species of interesting orchids. Our next stop will be at **Dehesa de Abajo**, where we will find an open woodland surrounding a lagoon with beautiful spring wildflowers carpeting the space between the trees. It will also be rich with birdlife, and we'll keep our eyes out for colorful **European Bee-eaters** and the regionally-endangered **Red-knobbed Coot**. We will have lunch at the restaurant here before finishing our drive to our lodge on the west side of Seville. Once we arrive, folks may take time to relax or walk around the grounds of the lodge before we gather to go over our bird list and then head to dinner.

Lodging: Ardea Purpurea



Eurasian Hoopoe

Day 7 - Apr 7 - Doñana National Park

This will be another full day of exploration, this time at **Doñana National Park**. The abundant wetlands here are teeming with wildlife—the park is considered one of the most important stopover sites for migratory water birds in all of Europe. Some of the birds we hope to see include **Greater Flamingo**, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, **Purple Heron**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Short-toed Snake-Eagle**, and many species of **waterfowl**. The forested uplands will have its fair share of song birds as well, with species such as **Eurasian Blue Tit**, **Common Cuckoo**, **Common Nightingale**, **Sardinian Warbler**, **European Stonechat**, and more.

We will have a packed lunch provided by the lodge, so we can explore the park at our leisure. We'll return to our lodge at the end of the day, where we will meet to go over our bird list before another tasty dinner.

Lodging: Ardea Purpurea

Day 8 - Apr 8 - Road to Extremadura

After a little bit of birding in the morning, we will travel north into the autonomous region of **Extremadura**. On the way, we will stop at **Puente Romano de Mérida**, a Roman bridge dating back to the first century. We'll take some time to bird from the bridge, where we may see birds like **Great Crested Grebes**, **Common Kingfisher**, **Eurasian Penduline-Tit**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Long-tailed Tit**, **Common Waxbill**, and **White Wagtail**.

As we near our hotel on the outskirts of Monfragüe National Park, we'll notice the scenery change to the more open scrub woodlands that set this region apart. There will again be some downtime at the hotel before we meet to go over the bird list and get dinner.

Lodging: Hospedería de Monfragüe

Day 9 - Apr 9 - Santa Marta Plains & Trujillo

In the morning, we'll head to the steppe habitat of the **Santa Marta Plains**. Here we'll be on the lookout for several grassland specialists, such as **Great and Little Bustards**, **Calandra Larks**, and **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**. We'll have a boxed lunch in the field before moving to a more forested area that may attract **Iberian Gray Shrikes** and **European Rollers**.

Afterwards, we'll go to the historic town of **Trujillo**. Many of the charming buildings and cobbled streets appear today much as

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.



Great Bustard

they did in the medieval period. You'll have time on your own to explore the town and do some shopping in the town square. From here, it will be back to the hotel for the bird list and dinner.

Lodging: Hospedería de Monfragüe



Monfragüe National Park

Day 10 - Apr 10 - Monfragüe National Park

We'll have the whole day to experience the beautiful **Monfragüe National Park**. A mixture of habitats here should lead to a nice variety of birds. Rocky outcroppings will be a good place to look for **Black Storks**, **Bonelli's Eagles**, **Egyptian Vultures**, **Eurasian Crag-Martins**, and **Blue Rock-Thrushes**. Wooded hillsides with cork and holm oaks provide good habitat for **Eurasian Hoopoes**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Black Redstart**, **Western Subalpine Warblers**, and more. We'll also take our time to just soak in the natural beauty of this truly marvelous park on a few leisurely walks. We plan to get back to the hotel early enough to refresh before we go through our bird list and enjoy dinner.

Lodging: Hospedería de Monfragüe

Day 11 - Apr 11 - Embalse de Arrocampo & Sierra de Gredos

We will have breakfast at the hotel before checking out and heading to **Embalse de Arrocampo**. This marshy reservoir should have bountiful water birds—**ducks, terns, herons**, and maybe even a **Little Bittern** if we are lucky. We'll spend a couple hours here before heading into the taller mountains to our northeast, the **Sierra de Gredos**. As we climb the mountain, we'll keep our eyes out for the impressive **Iberian Ibex** on rocky ledges, a cousin of the domestic goat has long, curving horns.

When we reach the lodge in the afternoon, we'll be at approximately 5,000 feet of elevation, and the birdlife will have changed dramatically. The hotel has a remarkable bird blind that will give us a chance to see a number of new species up close and personal. Possible species include **Red Kite, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Iberian Green Woodpecker, Common Firecrest, and Red Crossbill**. We may also bird some nearby locales if time allows. We'll finish off the day with a delicious home-cooked dinner at the hotel.

Lodging: [Hostal Almanzor](#)



Iberian Green Woodpecker

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Day 12- Apr 12 - La Plataforma de Gredos to Madrid

In the morning, we'll gain another 1,000 feet in elevation as we drive to the top of **La Plataforma de Gredos**. At the top, we'll find scrubby bushes growing among large boulders, and fast-moving streams from the recent snow melt. The habitat is perfect for birds like **Black Redstarts**, **Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrushes**, and **White-throated Dippers**. We will spend the morning enjoying the birds and fresh air of this unique habitat before returning to the hotel for lunch.

Then we will head east to check into our final hotel in **Madrid**. We will go over our bird list one last time before enjoying a celebratory dinner together at a local restaurant.

Lodging: Madrid hotel TBD

Day 13 - Apr 13 - Departures or Onward to the Extension

We'll have breakfast together at the hotel before we head to the airport. From there, you can catch a flight home, continue your travels in another part of Spain, or join us on the **extension to the Canary Islands!**

The Medieval Town of Trujillo



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



ITINERARY

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

Day 1 - Apr 13 - Arrival to Tenerife

The **Canary Islands** archipelago lies off the west coast of northern Africa, near Morocco. They make up an autonomous community of Spain—a governmental equivalent of a State in the U.S. There are seven main islands, and we will visit two of them: **Tenerife** and **Fuerteventura**. Isolated for millions of years, these volcanic islands have developed a unique flora and fauna, with many ecological parallels to the Galapagos Islands. The climate here is subtropical, with plenty of warmth and sunshine, so our visit should be very comfortable as we bird and explore the islands.

Our flight from Madrid will arrive to the island of Tenerife around midday. This island has an amazing diversity of habitats, despite its relatively small size. Our explorations here will take us through coastal scrub, pine forest, laurel forest (unique to the Canaries), and high mountain scrub.

EXTENSION TRIP

The Canary Islands

Apr 13 - 19, 2025

We will get lunch near the airport, then make our way to our first hotel. We will do some birding near the hotel which will give us a shot at our first Canary Islands endemic: the **Canary Islands Chiffchaff**. As is our custom, we'll go over our bird list in the evening before a delicious dinner.

Lodging: Hotel Rural Bentor

Day 2 - Apr 14 - Exploring Western Tenerife

We will drive to the western part of the island this morning to explore the forested slopes of **Monte del Agua**. High on our priority list here will be two species of endemic pigeons, **Bolle's Pigeon** and **Laurel Pigeon**, which are two of the most difficult endemics to find in the Canaries. We will get lunch in a nearby village, then head to **Teno Rural Park**, where the impressive cliffs provide nesting habitat for the **Barbary Falcon**, a subspecies of Peregrine Falcon. We will head back to the hotel early enough to have some time to relax before we meet for our bird list and dinner.

Lodging: Hotel Rural Bentor



The Island of Tenerife

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

Day 3 - Apr 15 - Birding Mount Teide

This day will be spent making the scenic drive around **Mount Teide**, the highest peak in Spain at over 12,000 feet. Besides offering panoramic views of its other-worldly scenery, this enormous volcano also shelters a fascinating and unique plant community in its caldera. One of the most beautiful and strange plants is the endemic “tower of jewels,” also known as **Mount Teide Bugloss**.

We will make birding stops as we go, looking for the endemic **Tenerife Blue Chaffinch** among tracts of **Canarian Pines**, as well as regional specialties such as **Island Canary** and **Berthelot's Pipit** in more open areas. Weather permitting, we may take the cable car to the top of Mount Teide to take in the spectacular view from the summit. We will complete our loop as we return to the hotel to review our bird lists and enjoy dinner.

Lodging: Hotel Rural Bentor

Mount Teide Bugloss plants



Mount Teide National Park



Tenerife Blue Chaffinch



Day 4 - Apr 16 - Travel to Fuerteventura and Local Birding

Before leaving Tenerife, we will have time for some morning birding. We can either search for any endemics that we may have missed or drive to the northern coast to explore the beaches and look for seabirds such as **Cory's Shearwater**.

After lunch, we will catch our short flight over to the island of **Fuerteventura**. This island feels like a world apart from Tenerife. Weathering over millions of years has smoothed Fuerteventura's topography into low hills and shallow gullies. Located much closer to the Sahara Desert, this island has a hot, arid climate, and the plants, birds, and wildlife here are adapted to life in the desert.

We'll make our way to the lovely coastal village of **El Cotillo**, where we will have our first chance at some of the desert species such as **Eurasian Thick-knee** and **Houbara Bustard**. We'll then settle in at the hotel and go over the bird list before meeting for dinner.

Lodging: Hotel Rural Mahoh



The Village of Betancuria on Fuerteventura Island

Day 5 - Apr 17 - Northern and Central Fuerteventura

In the morning, we will check out the ponds of **Catalina García**, where we may find **African Blue Tit**. We will then spend time in the charming village of **Betancuria**, the oldest town in the **Canary Islands**. Here we will have a chance to tour the many churches, chapels, and shops in the old-town district. We will get lunch at a local restaurant before heading to several reservoirs in the surrounding area, where we hope to see **Great Gray Shrikes**, **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**, and **Trumpeter Finches** making their namesake brassy calls. We will return to the hotel in the afternoon and have some down time before dinner.

Lodging: Hotel Rural Mahoh

Day 6 - Apr 18 - Southern Fuerteventura

We will begin the day at **Fimapaire Barranco**, where we will have good chances of seeing **Barbary Partridge** and the endemic **Fuerteventura Stonechat**. We will then head to the southern part of the island where we will visit a variety of beaches, ponds, and salt pans where we may get to see birds like **Laughing Doves** and **Spectacled Warblers**. This evening, we'll go to a local restaurant and enjoy a fine meal on our last night in the Canary Islands.

Lodging: Hotel Rural Mahoh

Day 7 - Apr 19 - Final Farewells

Time allowing, we'll offer some optional morning birding before we head to the airport as a group. We'll say our farewells before catching flights back to mainland Spain where we can make our connections to head back home.



Fuerteventura Stonechat



Houbara Bustard

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 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.
