

Cloud Ridge Naturalists

FIELD DISCOVERY SEMINARS

2018

A WORD ABOUT US

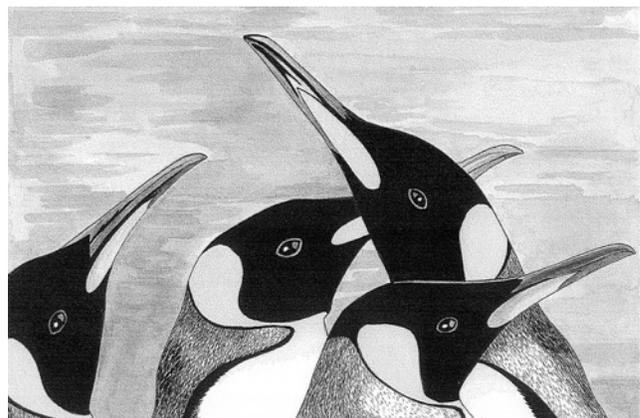
Cloud Ridge Naturalists is one of the oldest and most respected nonprofit environmental education programs in North America. Over the past 38 years, several thousand people have experienced the special blend of natural history education and exploration that Cloud Ridge offers. We are proud to provide educational opportunities that inspire and enable our participants to become better-informed stewards—not just “snapshot” sojourners of the natural world. Moving beyond the “last great place” model that drives traditional ecotourism, our educational vision embraces a multi-disciplinary perspective well grounded in state-of-the-art science. Just a glance through the biographies of our leaders and guest lecturers conveys the excellence and dedication they bring to everything we do—their expertise and passion for teaching is unsurpassed!

Our voyages of discovery take us to some of the world’s most beautiful places—celebrating the wonder but acknowledging the environmental challenges that transcend both ecological and international boundaries. We minimize our travel footprint wherever we go and work only with outfitters and guides whose operating principles and environmental ethics parallel our own. We select vintage boats, expedition-style ships, and classic lodgings that have a strong sense of place and purpose. Your safety, comfort, and enjoyment are of upmost importance to us—even in the remotest of settings. Groups are kept small to create the best possible atmosphere for discovery and learning. More than 80% of trip participants each year have traveled with us before. We look forward to welcoming new friends and old!

GLOBAL OCEAN CONSERVATION

Cloud Ridge’s focus on global ocean conservation embraces the extraordinary role that oceans play in our lives. What does the term “global ocean” mean—and why should we care? The world’s five ocean basins are interconnected by major surface and deep-water currents in a circulation system that creates a global ocean covering more than 70% of the earth’s surface. The global ocean is the world’s largest wilderness, with a lineage of life at least 3 billion years older than anything above sea level. Marine scientists estimate that 90% of the world’s biodiversity once resided in the global ocean—and that human actions have degraded ocean ecosystems more in the past 50 years than in all of human history. Cloud Ridge participants have witnessed dramatic examples of these changes during our Arctic and Antarctic voyages.

Thread by thread, the interconnections that exist between global climate, the oceans, and terrestrial ecosystems are being revealed. The consequences of ignoring the environmental challenges facing the global ocean are truly profound. Conserving life in the sea and on land requires that we view the world through a vastly different lens—and that we all work together to inspire the next generation of ocean stewards.



CONSERVATION IN FOCUS

Cloud Ridge's **Conservation in Focus** voyages embody the true spirit of expeditionary discovery. Our naturalists have dedicated their professional work to portraying the inherent beauty and complexity of the natural world as well as the environmental dramas that threaten the fragile fabric of life. If you wish to share your trip experiences with images, our photographic leader can help you master or refine those skills. After each of our trips we create a book—a visual memoir that weaves together the group's best images of our explorations.

THE *M/V WESTWARD*

Pacific Catalyst's *M/V Westward* serves as our "classroom afloat" for our voyages in the North Pacific and in the Sea of Cortez. This Ted Geary-designed, 86-foot cruising yacht is a wooden work of art with a history to match! She was launched in 1924 as the flagship for the Alaska Coast Hunting and Cruising Co. For 20 years, *Westward* pioneered Alaska adventure travel and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for her maritime contributions. In her earliest years, she hosted a note-worthy clientele of celebrities that included George Eastman, founder of Eastman Kodak, and Walt Disney, the legendary film producer. The men's shared travel experiences aboard *Westward* are thought to have provided the inspiration for Disney's launch into nature programming. *Westward* is also an accomplished world traveler, having logged a 47,000-mile circumnavigation of the globe in the 1970s and an equally impressive circumnavigation of the Pacific in 2007-2008. Elegant and supremely seaworthy, *Westward* is still powered by her original 1923 Atlas Imperial diesel engine and equipped with stabilizers for rough seas. She recently underwent a major rebuild and the period-perfect transformation of her 4 staterooms (with en suite heads) by a master craftsman. *Westward* accommodates 8-12 passengers and a 4-person crew, which includes her owner/captain, Bill Bailey, an engineer, a chef, and a naturalist/kayak guide. Although the heart of this historic vessel is her venerable engine, her soul is revealed in the magical alchemy of flavors that emerges from the galley thanks to Chef Traci Triolo. *Westward* has a full complement of sea kayaks, a motorized skiff and a passion for exploring.

IN THE SPIRIT OF ED RICKETTS AND JOHN STEINBECK: A VOYAGE TO THE SEA OF CORTEZ & BAJA CALIFORNIA

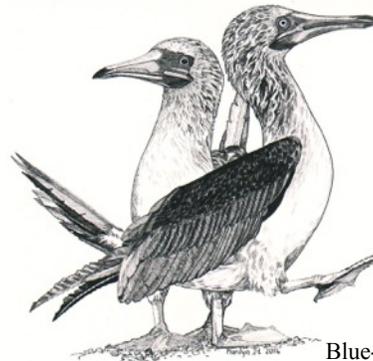
February 22-March 6, 2018

Loreto to La Paz itinerary (13 Days/12 Nights)

Leaders: Carlos Gajon Bermúdez, Audrey Benedict, Geoff Hammerson, Wendy Shattil and the *M/V Westward's* Crew

Standing on *Westward's* foredeck, we see an arc of cloudless sky and a jagged spine of cactus-clad mountains towering above turquoise-hued water. Rising mirage-like out of the Pacific Ocean, Mexico's Baja California Peninsula stretches south as a slender 800-mile-long cul-de-sac of the Sonoran Desert. Along its austere eastern shoreline, the Sea of Cortez (Gulf of California) separates the Baja peninsula from the rest of mainland Mexico. From Baja's western coast, the Pacific Ocean stretches across one-third of the globe's circumference before reaching the shores of another continent.

The sense that Baja California seems a world apart reflects its remarkable plate tectonic history and its biological setting. Baja California sits atop the oceanic Pacific Plate while mainland Mexico is situated on the continental North American Plate. Deep-seated plate movements along the southern trajectory of the great San Andreas Fault caused the peninsula to begin rifting northwest in relation to mainland Mexico about 25 million years ago. By 5 million years ago, the Pacific Ocean had flowed into the gulf-like breach between the plates, ultimately creating the Sea of Cortez. Episodes of intense volcanism along the peninsula's mountainous spine and the resulting uplift of its eastern flanks produced the spectacular scenery we see today and triggered the region's climatic transformation.



Blue-footed boobies (MH)

Tethered to the North American mainland by a narrow land bridge and surrounded by Pacific waters on three sides, Baja California is a treasure trove of biodiversity. With the evolutionary stage set by a million years of virtual isolation, the Sea of Cortez's 44 major islands and 900 smaller islands host the largest number of endemic plant and animal species in North America. Of the 695 species of island-dwelling vascular plants, 20 genera are endemic. These islands are also among the world's richest in terms of reptile diversity, with at least 50 endemic species.

The late Jacques Cousteau, ocean explorer and renowned conservationist, described the Sea of Cortez as "the aquarium of the world." Of the 891 species of fish that occur in these waters, 90 are endemics. The region also contains 39% of the world's total number of marine mammal species and one-third of the world's cetacean species. In fact, many biologists refer to the Sea of Cortez and its islands as the "Mexican Galapagos." In 2005, with tourism pressures, overfishing, and other environmental threats taking a drastic toll, UNESCO and the Mexican government protected much of the Sea of Cortez and nearly 50% of Baja California Sur as a World Heritage Site.

Southbound Itinerary

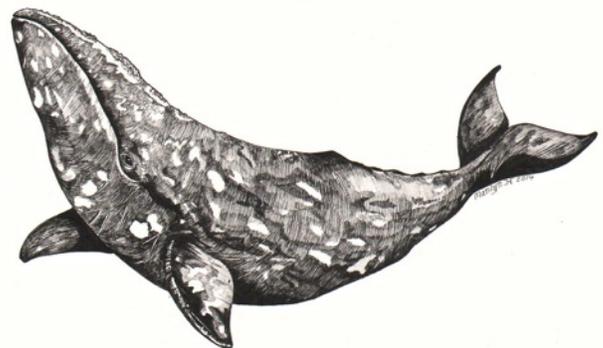
Our southbound expeditions to Baja California begin in Loreto, a picturesque town located on Baja's eastern shore, and end in the city of La Paz. Traveling by van across the Baja peninsula's jagged spine to Magdalena Bay, we'll visit one of the sheltered lagoons on Baja's west coast where migratory gray whales gather in large numbers each winter to give birth and breed. Our base is a delightful small hotel located on a beautiful and bird-rich estuary. Whale watching guides take us into the lagoon in their small boats (pangas) in the afternoon and again the next morning, affording us two magical opportunities to drift quietly in the midst of gray whale mothers and their calves. The whales seem to be as curious about us as we are of them. Some whale mothers may even bring their calves right up to the boats. With memories of gray whales tucked away in our hearts and minds, we return to the *Westward* and begin our voyage in the Sea of Cortez.

Why voyage "In the Spirit of Ed Ricketts and John Steinbeck?" Legendary marine biologist Ed Ricketts is known for his pioneering studies

of marine ecology along the Pacific coastline of North America. His famous book *Between Pacific Tides*, first published in 1939, remains the classic reference for the Pacific intertidal zone. In the spring of 1940, Ed Ricketts and his ocean-loving friend, novelist John Steinbeck, embarked on a 4,000-mile expedition aboard the *Western Flyer*, a sturdy 76-foot purse seiner. Their voyage would take them from California's Monterey Bay south around Baja California and into the Sea of Cortez.

Ricketts and Steinbeck shared a profound passion for understanding the marine world. They believed that their 6-week collecting trip in the Sea of Cortez would open a window on this little known region as wide and horizonless as Charles Darwin's explorations had aboard the *Beagle*. Their expedition resulted in two books—*Sea of Cortez: A Leisurely Journal of Travel and Research* (1941), which included Ricketts' collection catalog, and *The Log from the Sea of Cortez* (1951), Steinbeck's shorter version published following Ricketts' tragic death in 1948. John Steinbeck described their expedition as "bright with sun and wet with sea water." We follow happily in their wake.

Westward's naturalist, sea kayak and snorkeling guide, Carlos Gajon, is a La Paz native and leads our naturalist team in exploring this desert and marine wilderness. Once aboard *Westward*, we'll be watching for red-billed tropicbirds and elegant terns swooping over the water and brown pelicans fishing the turquoise shallows. Trips ashore introduce us to the Sonoran desert biome and the plants and animals adapted for life here. You'll see giant cardón cacti towering over a prickly understory of shrubs and desert-adapted wildflowers. Desert birds include white-winged doves, pyrrhuloxias, Gila woodpeckers, and the endemic Xantu's hummingbird. We'll use sea



kayaks to explore the labyrinth of mangroves in San Jose's expansive lagoon, ever-watchful for yellow-crowned night herons, white ibis, and mangrove warblers. At sea, we'll hope to see foraging pairs of Craveri's murrelet, the tiniest of murrelets, both blue-footed and brown boobies, Heermann's gulls, and magnificent frigatebirds.

Island hopping, we'll drift quietly through the nutrient-rich waters of the "blue triangle," where we hope to spot both blue and sperm whales as they congregate to feed on the bounty of plankton and squid. We'll learn how the infamous El Niño and La Niña cycles in the Pacific influence the abundance of marine life and drive the storm systems that deliver nurturing moisture to the Baja peninsula and the islands of the Sea of Cortez. The aerial displays of mobula rays never fail to amaze and, if we are lucky, long-beaked common dolphins may converge at our bow wave.

At Los Islotes we'll observe the raucous action at a haulout of California sea lions. Anchoring off Isla Partida and Caleta Cardonal, we'll wander the island's mangrove-fringed shore and enjoy a cross-island hike. At Isla Espiritu Santo, we'll kayak the crystalline waters and spend time photographing a spectacular colony of magnificent frigatebirds—a treat for all the senses. But wherever our final anchorage finds us, we'll certainly celebrate and savor the highlights of our trip over yet another fabulous dinner, raising our glasses to a fiery Baja sunset and our shared adventures in a desert paradise.

Price: \$6,695. (includes a \$1,000 deposit)
Group Size: 8 (+ 3 leaders) Trip Rating: 2-3
Includes: 4 nights' hotel accommodations (including 2/22 at the Westin Airport Hotel near LAX), and the Alaska Airlines flight from LAX to Loreto on 2/23. Also included is van transport on the peninsula, all meals ashore, a week's nights and all meals aboard *Westward*, all wine and beer, 3 Cloud Ridge naturalist leaders, *Westward's* 4-person crew, complete sea kayak outfitting and instruction, gratuities throughout, and a copy of the photo book of our voyage. The price quoted is **per person** based on double occupancy. Single accommodations are unavailable for this trip.
Does not include roundtrip airfare to Baja from your home airport (except where air segments are noted in the trip description) or travel insurance.

**A NATURALIST'S VOYAGE TO
SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S WILD COAST**
August 2-11, 2018 10 Days/9 Nights
**Audrey Benedict, Geoff Hammerson, Wendy
Shattil and the *M/V Westward* Crew**
(Cruise Itinerary: Sitka to Petersburg)

Few places in North America rival the scenic beauty and wildlife diversity of Southeast Alaska. Join us for an all-new voyage between Sitka and Juneau aboard the *M/V Westward*—our "classroom afloat." We've been exploring these waters with Pacific Catalyst since 1996 and we know you'll agree that there is no finer way to experience Southeast Alaska. Unlike big cruise ships, *Westward* is trim enough to explore the narrowest of fjords, slipping quietly past electric blue icebergs, and to wander amidst the rocky islands on the outer coast. The use of sea kayaks allows us a special seal's-eye view of the marine world. Beginning sea kayakers will find this an ideal setting in which to learn.

We begin our adventure in Sitka, which sits in the shadow of Mount Edgecumbe, a volcano named by Captain Cook in 1778. Sitka would eventually become the political and cultural hub of Russian adventurism in Alaska and the North Pacific during the 19th century. First settled by pre-Tlingit people about 10,000 years ago, Sitka offers a unique window into Tlingit history and their struggle to preserve cultural identity in the face of a burgeoning European and American presence. Visits to the Totem Trail National Historical Park and the Sheldon Jackson Museum reveal the powerful cultural and artistic influences that shaped the indigenous lifeway.

The siren call of the wild Pacific edge beckons and we board *Westward*, casting off for Krestof Sound. This will be the first of several anchorages as we island-hop our way northeast to Sergius Narrows and into Peril Strait. In Peril Strait, anchoring in Hanus Bay, we'll hike to Lake Eva and then enjoy a paddle in our quiet cove. The junction of Peril Strait and Chatham Strait is



especially rich in forage fish, attracting a diversity of marine mammals and seabirds. If we are lucky, we may see the spectacular bouts of synchronized lunge-feeding behavior that occurs when groups of humpbacks work cooperatively to entrap schools of small fish or krill by creating a near-surface “bubble net.” With this bubble net in place, the humpbacks lunge upwards with their baleen-rimmed mouths agape, engulfing hundreds of small prey fish in one fluid motion.

Our Southeast Alaska voyages offer myriad photographic and natural history opportunities. Although wildlife sightings are unpredictable, we should see both brown and black bears visiting their traditional salmon spawning streams, raucous groups of Steller sea lions at their haul-outs, harbor seals and their pups, bald eagles, and fascinating seabirds, such as the marbled murrelet, pigeon guillemot, and tufted puffin. Bear watching is always a highlight of any trip and we’ll anchor in an estuary system that supports a large population of brown bears, spending several hours ashore following paths created by generations of bears. We’ll learn to identify their day beds, scratching trees, lookouts, and then hike to a fish ladder that allows returning salmon access to their natal streams and where we’ll hope to see large numbers of feasting bears.

Are there really salmon in the trees? The answer is a coevolutionary story—and bears and many other salmon-loving species play a crucial role in the rich cycle of life that links the forest with the sea. To see thousands of spawning salmon, tail to tail in the swaying current and making their final journey is a soul-stirring experience. We’ll “talk salmon,” and learn why the Alaska wild salmon fishery has earned a reputation as one of the most carefully managed and environmentally conscientious fisheries in the world. We’ll also discuss how changes in prevailing ocean currents and water temperatures are affecting the forage fish population that marine mammals and seabirds depend on for food.

Several cultural opportunities on this voyage offer glimpses of how people have adapted to the challenges of life in a coastal wilderness. Crossing Chatham Strait to Admiralty Island, we’ll visit the Tlingit village of Angoon. A Tlingit elder will welcome us and introduce us to local carvers who’ll show us their current projects. The traditional Tlingit stories our host shares provides

a window into the many ways that their lives are shaped by forest and sea. Listening to the Tlingit language you hear the music of water and ice—and the ever-present spirit voice of Raven.

Rounding the southern tip of Admiralty Island, we head towards our rendezvous with the Dawes Glacier, a magnificent tidewater glacier. Crossing the terminal moraine that guards the entrance to Endicott Arm, we are quickly immersed in the magical world of a glacial fjord. At Ford’s Terror, the glacially-etched bedrock walls of the fjord resemble a flooded Yosemite. Kayaking here introduces us to a world of indescribable beauty. Arriving at the towering face of the Dawes Glacier compels us to address global warming realities. Continuing south along Frederick Sound, we explore the Brothers Islands and spend our final evening in the dramatic embrace of Scenery Cove. Creating a photo book will capture the essence of Southeast Alaska—as well as the challenges looming on the horizon.

Price: \$6,550 (includes a \$1,000 deposit)
Group Size: 8 (plus 3 leaders) Trip Rating: 2-3
Price includes: 1 night’s lodging in Sitka (8/2) and 1 night’s lodging in Petersburg (8/10), 8 days/7 nights aboard *Westward*, all meals and beverages (wine/beer included) aboard and onshore, the services of our 3 naturalist leaders, gratuities to *Westward*’s crew, full sea kayak outfitting and instruction, boat/hotel transfers, and copy of the trip’s photo book. The price quoted is *per person* based on double occupancy; single accommodations unavailable. **Not included:** Roundtrip airfare from your point of departure to Sitka on 8/2 or return from Petersburg on 8/11.



Brown bear (MH)

**CONSERVATION IN FOCUS:
THE SALISH SEA & SAN JUAN ISLANDS
September 20-27, 2018 8 Days/7 Nights
Leaders: Geoff Hammerson, Wendy Shattil,
Audrey Benedict and the *M/V Westward* Crew**

Thousands of years before the first Europeans arrived in the Pacific Northwest, the Coast Salish people flourished along the shores of one of the most biologically rich inland seas in the world—now known as the Salish Sea. Named in honor of those first inhabitants, the Salish Sea straddles the Canadian border and includes the marine waters encompassing Washington’s Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, the San Juan Islands, and British Columbia’s Gulf Islands and the Strait of Georgia. Connected to the Pacific Ocean primarily via the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Salish Sea receives an almost constant influx of nutrient-rich freshwater from British Columbia’s Fraser River, the Skagit, and the many smaller rivers of Washington’s mainland—all of which provide essential building blocks for the region’s extraordinary biodiversity. The strong currents and extreme tidal exchanges in the Salish Sea create optimal conditions for nutrient upwelling and for the proliferation of the photosynthetic plankton that forms the basis of the marine food chain.

Life in the San Juan Archipelago is governed by the sea’s rhythms—its extraordinary biological richness attributed to the rain shadow cast by the Olympic Mountains and the greater diversity of habitats available to plants and animals in these islands than occurs along the wetter mainland coast. Not surprisingly, the marine waters surrounding the San Juan Islands provide critical habitat for marine mammals such as migrating gray whales, both resident and “transient” populations of killer whales, harbor seals, Steller and California sea lions, and river otters. More than 165 species of birds depend on the Salish Sea and adjacent terrestrial habitats for their survival. The overwintering seabirds and ducks will just have begun arriving—the murrelets, guillemots, murre, rhinoceros auklets, scoters, and harlequin ducks. All seven species of Pacific salmon, including rainbow/steelhead and coastal cutthroat, occur in the Salish Sea. Both near-shore and deep-water habitats are also home to several “giants” of the marine world, including the Pacific giant octopus, plumose anemone, giant red sea urchin, and the geoduck, largest of the burrowing clams.

Today, nearly 8 million people live on the islands and in the mainland watersheds that nourish the Salish Sea on both sides of the international border. The impacts of global warming, ocean acidification, and pressures related to commercial fisheries, shellfish farming, and the looming threats of naval training activities and a major coal shipping port pose significant challenges. Scientists and citizen groups are working together to ensure that sea-based livelihoods are able to adapt with practices that promote sustainability.

Our guest scientist is Joe Gaydos, the Chief Scientist for the Orcas Island-based SeaDoc Society’s marine research and conservation program. Moving beyond the familiar intertidal zone, Joe and his dive team conduct a “virtual dive” for us—transmitting live coverage of the deeper marine world to the big screen aboard *Westward* for us all to enjoy—no dry suit required! We’ll create a photo book that truly captures the magical essence of the Salish Sea and all that we’ve seen and learned.

Price: \$2,950 (includes a \$500 deposit)
Group Size: 8 (plus 3 leaders) Trip Rating: 2-3
Price includes: 5 nights/6 days aboard the *Westward*, all meals and beverages, 2 nights’ lodging (9/20 and 9/26) in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, 2 group dinners ashore, all instruction by our leaders and guest lecturers, sea kayak outfitting, the *Westward*’s 3-person crew, gratuities to the crew, and a copy of our photo book. The price quoted is *per person* based on double occupancy; single accommodations are unavailable aboard *Westward*. **Does not include** round-trip airfare or travel from your point of departure on 9/20 to Friday Harbor or your return on 9/27. Seminar begins with dinner and lodging in Friday Harbor on 9/20 and concludes with dinner and lodging in Friday Harbor on 9/26.



HIGH SPRING EXPEDITIONS

We are living in a world where we are seeing the impacts of global climate change all around us. These changes are most dramatic in our Polar regions. Our all-new **High Spring Expedition** series begins with two unique cruises to the most spectacular Polar wilderness areas on Earth. Each of these expeditions highlights spring migration as well as the fascinating behaviors and perilous challenges that mark the beginning of the breeding season. Our voyages promise a wildlife spectacle of epic proportions.

Whatever compels your exploring spirit, whether it's the bellicose squabbles of bull elephant seals or walrus, the chance to see polar bear mothers and their cubs, cliffs festooned with thousands of nesting seabirds, or simply the gift of watching and photographing the daily lives of albatrosses and penguins, we promise not to disappoint you! Be prepared for a total sensory experience—visual, auditory, and olfactory!

Special Pricing Note: This is Cloud Ridge's *third* and *final* offering of voyages to Spitsbergen, South Georgia, and the Falklands. Future trips in the **High Spring Expedition** series will explore other destinations that are also at risk. The decision is yours—whether to register for one trip or both. We offer a combined trip discount of \$1,000 to those who choose to do both trips.

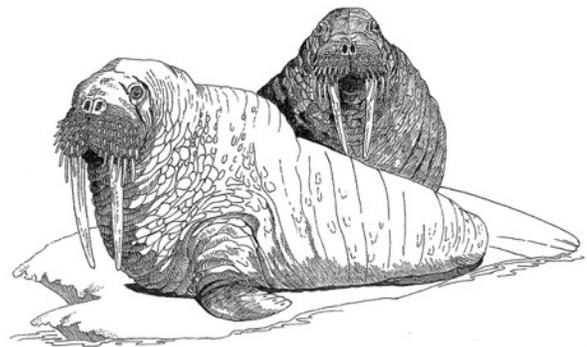
**HIGH SPRING IN THE ARCTIC:
A SAILING SCHOONER VOYAGE
TO NORTHERN SPITSBERGEN
May 9-20, 2018 12 Days/11 Nights
Leaders: Audrey Benedict, Geoff Hammerson,
Wendy Shattil, and Rembrandt van Rijn Crew**

We begin our first season of **High Spring Expedition** cruises in the Norwegian Arctic with a schooner-based sailing voyage to the fjords of Northern Spitsbergen. The Svalbard Archipelago lies just 600 miles south of the North Pole and is one of the High Arctic's richest wildlife sanctuaries. The diversity and abundance of wildlife—polar bears, arctic foxes, walrus, reindeer, three species of seals (bearded, ringed, and harp seals), and huge colonies of seabirds—reflects the environmental influences of the warm currents pushed northward by a branch of the Atlantic's mighty Gulf Stream.

Harking back to a bygone era, our vessel of choice for exploring these ice-choked fjords is the 3-mast, 33-passenger wooden schooner *Rembrandt van Rijn*. This historic vessel was built in 1924 as a North Sea herring "lugger," but it was her beauty and sea worthiness that ultimately inspired her restoration and rebuild as an expeditionary-class sailing schooner.

Bathed in the glow of the midnight sun, we'll sail from Longyearbyen's small harbor, setting course for Trygghamma and our first night's anchorage. As we sail, we'll always be keeping watch on deck for several species of whales, dolphins, seals, geese, and seabirds. Landing at Trygghamma, we immerse ourselves in Arctic history, visiting a 17th century English whaling station and an 18th century Pomor (Russian) hunting station. We will hike to Alkhornet and watch murre and guillemots prospecting for nesting sites on a spectacular seaside cliff. Below the cliffs there is usually a den of Arctic foxes and reindeer may be grazing on the lush vegetation that grows as a result of the guano.

Setting sail north towards the melting sea ice, we'll begin seeing great "waves" of cliff-nesting seabirds—thick-billed murre, Atlantic puffins, both Brünnich's and black guillemots, ivory gulls, black-legged kittiwakes, and little auks. The splendid cacophony of their voices as they fly between their nesting sites and fishing grounds at sea is unforgettable. In addition, we should see rafts of common eiders, famed for their soft, superbly insulating feathers (eider down), which they pluck from their breasts to make their nests. If sea conditions permit, we'll top off our day at sea with a visit to a raucous walrus haulout at Poolepynten, or at Sarstangen.



Sailing into Fuglefjorden, we'll be watching for polar bears on shore and scanning the seabird cliffs along the way. We'll Zodiac to the tiny island of Ytre Norskøya, hiking to its summit, which once served as a lookout point for whalers. Walking past the graves of 200 Dutch whalers, we'll be looking for the nests of common eiders and Arctic skuas tucked among the rocks.

Navigating the cliff-bound coastline of Northern Spitsbergen, we'll be watching for beluga whales as we sail into Raudfjord. With its backdrop of spectacular glaciers, this fjord offers excellent chances for spotting polar bears because it is also a favorite place for ringed and bearded seals to haul out on the ice. Jermaktangen, at the fjord's eastern entrance, offers photographers another sea-sculpted wonderland to explore and the aerial artistry of Arctic terns.

Our southbound voyage takes us to Fuglesangen, where we'll have the magical opportunity of observing a large colony of dovekies, or little auks. The mass flights of this tiny auk are a symphony of whirring wings and vibrato trilling. Sailing to the face of the 14th of July Glacier, we'll see nesting colonies of Atlantic puffins, razorbills, and Brünnich's guillemots. Our last day at sea will find us deep within Isfjorden, at Gipsvika, another geologic wonderland to be explored. Looking out at the majestic cliff of Templet, ablaze in amber twilight, we'll lift our glasses in a final toast to the Midnight Sun.

Group Size: 13 Trip Rating: 3
Deposit: \$2,000. (per person)

Trip Cost & Cabin Choice: Cabin category prices are all-inclusive and reflect all land and cruise-related expenses (unless otherwise noted). Trip cost is quoted per person based on double occupancy and the type of cabin requested. The number listed before the cabin category refers to the number of cabins we've reserved in that price category. Cabins are booked on a first-come, first-serve basis. All cabins have both upper and lower berths, private shower/toilet, and all have portholes. Early booking is encouraged to secure your preferred cabin type. Single travelers who wish to share a cabin will be accommodated provided that a suitable roommate is available. Those preferring not to share will be charged the double occupancy rate for that cabin.

(1) Triple Private Porthole Cabin: 3 twin berths (1 upper/lower + 1 lower), porthole, and private shower/toilet; this cabin is suitable for a family of 3 or 3 men or 3 women. **Price (per person): \$5,990.**

(5) Twin Private Porthole Cabins: 2 twin berths (upper/lower), porthole, and private shower/toilet. **Price (per person): \$6,950. No share: \$9,256.**

Included: Trip materials, airport hotel in Oslo (5/10 & 5/18), hotel meals, roundtrip air travel from Oslo to Longyearbyen (5/11 & 5/18), transfers to boat, 7 nights/8 days aboard *Rembrandt van Rijn*, all meals, Zodiac trips, lecture program, 3 Cloud Ridge leaders + 2 Oceanwide leaders, and 10 *Rembrandt* crew.

Not Included: Roundtrip travel to Oslo, Norway, additional hotel nights in Oslo if desired (2 nights are included), airport transfers in Oslo, alcoholic beverages, gratuities to *Rembrandt's* crew and staff, all items of a personal nature, and required trip insurance

Special Note: Trip dates include a two-day allowance for international/overnight flights.



**HIGH SPRING IN THE SUBANTARCTIC:
THE FALKLANDS & SOUTH GEORGIA**
Nov. 15-Dec. 5, 2018 (21 Days/20 Nights)
**Leaders: Audrey Benedict, Geoff Hammerson
and Wendy Shattil.**

This expedition voyage focuses solely on the Falklands and South Georgia and coincides with the peak of spring migration and the breeding season for the birds and marine mammals of the Southern Ocean. In striking contrast to most Antarctic voyages, our in-depth, 17-day voyage aboard the legendary *Akademik Vavilov* gives us superb opportunities for observation and

photography and the gift of time to stop at magical places rarely visited by other ships. Throughout our voyage, our expedition leaders offer programs on exploration history, penguins, albatrosses, seals, and whales. The comfortable embrace of our expedition ship, combined with culinary delights and fine wines, guarantees smiles at the end of every wondrous day.

South Georgia lies more than a thousand miles east of Cape Horn and nearly the same distance northeast of the Antarctic continent. The closest major landfalls are the Falkland Islands, more than 870 miles away—which is where we join the *Vavilov* at Port Stanley. Most travelers experience the Falkland Islands as a rare jumping-off point for their voyages to Antarctica. For Cloud Ridge travelers, the Falklands have always been a wildlife-rich destination—a string of pearls in a windswept sea. First discovered in 1592, when John Davis’s ship, the *Desire*, was blown there in a storm, Charles Darwin visited these starkly beautiful islands twice in 1833 aboard the HMS *Beagle*. Darwin’s notebooks described the archipelago’s intriguing geology but the great naturalist seemed most captivated by the huge colonies of penguins and the equally vast colonies of that legendary nomad of wind and wave—the black-browed albatross.

Good sea conditions are critical for Zodiac landings in the Falkland Islands. We’ll set our sights hopes on Steeple Jason, Saunders, and Carcass Islands. Among the many gifts of our remote island landings will be the chance to sit quietly amidst colonies of gentoo, rockhopper, king, and Magellanic penguins. Experiencing the sheer magic of seeing thousands upon thousands of black-browed albatrosses soaring overhead, on their nests, displaying, or simply going about the business of life in the wilds of the Southern Ocean is a rare privilege.

I’ll never forget my first glimpse of South Georgia—a verdant world that stood in sharp contrast to the Antarctic. Cascading glaciers framed by pinnacles of black rock give way to tussocky headlands and beaches covered with thousands of king penguins, their white breasts and golden bibs and ear patches glinting in the sun. Battling bull elephant seals will be staking out their strongholds, the females packed in noisy rows a dozen deep. Gangs of equally feisty Antarctic fur seals will be defending their own

patch of turf amidst the cacophonous squabbling of the penguins. South Georgia’s stunning biodiversity includes thousands of king, gentoo, chinstrap and macaroni penguins, as well as wandering, gray-headed, light-mantled sooty and black-browed albatrosses, several species of petrels, skuas, and prions, and the most southerly songbird in the world, the South Georgia pipit.

Situated well south of the Polar Front, South Georgia is the “rock” in the current around which the waters of the Weddell and Ross seas meet and swirl in a nutrient-rich “soup” that supports an unparalleled diversity of Subantarctic wildlife species. South Georgia is described as a Polar version of the Alps—one that rises straight out of the sea and where spectacular glaciers and ice caps grace its mountainous spine for nearly a 100 miles. Geologically speaking, the island rides the crest of the Scotia Ridge, a line of mostly submarine mountains some 2,700 miles in length that link the Antarctic Peninsula with the Andes.

In 1914, Ernest Shackleton and an expedition team of 27 set sail from England aboard the *Endurance* in pursuit of the last unclaimed prize in Antarctic exploration: the first crossing of the Antarctic continent on foot. Navigating a treacherous and freezing route across the Weddell Sea, the expedition got within 85 miles of their destination before the *Endurance* was crushed by pack ice, leaving the entire crew stranded on the ice floes. The ordeal lasted 20 months and is one of history’s greatest survival epics. Despite two near-fatal attempts to escape, Shackleton made a last-ditch effort in an open boat—an 800-mile voyage to South Georgia’s Stromness whaling station. We’ll stop at Grytviken, paying homage to Shackleton and all the brave Antarctic explorers in whose footsteps we travel.

Group Size: 16 Trip Rating: 3
Deposit: \$3,000. (per person)

Trip Cost & Cabin Choice: Cabin category prices are all-inclusive and reflect all land and cruise-related expenses (unless otherwise noted). Trip cost is quoted per person based on double occupancy and the type of cabin requested. The number listed before the cabin category refers to the number of cabins we’ve reserved in that category. Cabins are booked on a first-come, first-serve basis and early booking is encouraged.

Single travelers who wish to share will be accommodated provided that a suitable roommate is available. The cost for those preferring not to share will be a single supplement of \$6,500.00 added to the stated double occupancy rate.

(2) Shackleton Suite: 1 double bed, opening windows, private bathroom, separate lounge space with sofa bed, coffee/tea maker and amenities.

Price (per person): \$15,595.

(6) Twin Private Window Cabin: 2 twin beds (both lower), opening window, desk/chair, coffee/tea maker, and private bathroom.

Price (per person): \$12,695.

Included: Pre- and post-cruise hotels (1 night each in Punta Arenas and Ushuaia), 2 group dinners, air travel (11/17) from Punta Arenas (Chile) to Port Stanley (Falklands), ship transfers, 17 days/16 nights aboard the *Vavilov*, all meals aboard ship, all Zodiac trips, trip materials, lecture program, 3 Cloud Ridge leaders, and the *Vavilov's* cruise and expedition staff.

Not Included: Roundtrip international and Chilean domestic airfare from your home airport to Punta Arenas and return from Ushuaia, hotel nights other than those listed, airport transfers, alcoholic beverages, gratuities to *Vavilov* crew and staff, items of a personal nature, and travel/medical evacuation insurance.

Special Note: Trip dates include a two-day allowance for international/overnight flights.

TRIP RATINGS & EXPEDITION TRAVEL

Our expeditions are rated to assist you in choosing the trip that's right for you. Because of the moderate agility required on most expeditionary-class ships, on *Westward*, in using sea kayaks, skiffs or Zodiacs, participants with significant medical issues—physical disabilities, wheelchair-confinement, chronic heart disease and/or severe respiratory illnesses requiring supplemental oxygen, or any other potentially debilitating medical conditions—should **NOT** register for these trips. By forwarding the registration form and your deposit, you are certifying that you are in good physical health and capable of performing all normal activities without assistance.

(1) EASY: Hotel, lodge, ship, or small boat-based trips, no camping, hikes of up to 2 miles, and minimal altitude gain.

(2) EASY TO MODERATE: Lodge, ship, or camping based, hikes of 2-4 miles, sea kayaking,

small plane travel, and moderate altitude gains.

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

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

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

To register for one of Cloud Ridge's seminars, fill out the registration form and send it to us, along with your nonrefundable deposit. In the event a trip is full, we'll add your name to a wait-list and promptly return your deposit. The balance of all tour fees is due 90 days prior to the trip departure date, unless otherwise noted or unless other arrangements have been made. Registrations received within 90 days of departure must include payment in full.

TRIP CANCELLATION & TRAVEL INSURANCE

To protect your travel investment in the event of illness or injury to you or to a family member prior to or during a trip, we **strongly advise** that all participants purchase trip insurance, including a **trip cancellation/interruption policy** and/or **emergency medical evacuation coverage**. All international expedition outfitters **require** medical emergency/evacuation coverage. Emergency evacuation from remote wilderness areas is expensive and not included in standard medical insurance policies. Medicare does not provide coverage for individuals traveling outside the U.S. ***Please don't leave home without trip insurance!***

OUR CANCELLATION POLICY:

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

- ◆ Cancellation received **90 days or more** prior to a trip's departure, all trip costs, less the deposit, will be refunded. The deposit will also be refunded if we are able to fill your space from a wait-list.
- ◆ Cancellation received **less than 90 days** prior to departure, no refund is possible unless we can fill your space from a wait-list.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Cloud Ridge Naturalists is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c) 3 organization providing educational opportunities in the natural sciences and financial support for conservation-focused publishing projects. You can become a **Supporter** (\$25) or a **Sponsor** (\$50 or more). We welcome your donations with gratitude.

CLOUD RIDGE LEADERS

Audrey Benedict is the Founder and Director of Cloud Ridge Naturalists and Cloud Ridge Publishing. Her passion for geology and biology inspired a 45-year love affair with high mountains and the global ocean realm that has taken her from the Arctic to the Antarctic, as well as up and down the North and South American Cordillera. Audrey is the author of several books, including *The Naturalist's Guide to the Southern Rockies: Southern Wyoming, Colorado, and Northern New Mexico* and *Valley of the Dunes: Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve*, the latter a collaborative effort with photographers Wendy Shattil and the late Bob Rozinski. Her most recent book, with coauthor Joe Gaydos, is *The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest*, a Nautilus Gold Award-winning conservation book designed, produced and financially supported by Cloud Ridge's publishing team and private donations. Audrey serves on the Board of Directors for the SeaDoc Society. She divides her time between her Colorado mountain home near the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area and her tiny off-grid retreat on Frost Island in Washington's San Juan Islands.

Dr. Geoff Hammerson lives in Port Townsend, Washington and recently retired after a multi-decade career as Senior Research Zoologist for NatureServe. Geoff is the lead biologist on Cloud Ridge's naturalist team, and as helped guide our field discovery programs since the early 1980's. He is the author of the field guide *Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado*, as well as *Connecticut Wildlife*. This Pacific Northwest "convert" is currently at work, with co-author Audrey Benedict, on a book about the Pacific Americas Flyway, which extends from Arctic North America to Tierra del Fuego. Geoff is an extraordinary observer of the natural world and is always adding new dimensions to his natural history expertise. He's a popular instructor and teaches field courses in biology and ecology at Wesleyan University and other institutions.

Wendy Shattil is a rare species indeed—a full time professional nature photographer. She and her late husband and partner, Bob Rozinski, worked individually and as a team for more than 30 years until Bob's death in 2016. They are known world-wide for their award-winning images and for the breadth of their work as environmental photographers of endangered

species and at-risk ecosystems throughout North America. Fellows of the International League of Conservation Photographers, Bob and Wendy produced twelve books together, and their images have appeared in *National Wildlife*, *Audubon*, *Nature Conservancy*, *BBC Wildlife*, *Nature's Best*, *National Geographic*, and many other publications. Wendy serves as Managing Editor for Cloud Ridge Publishing and brings her expertise and critical eye to everything we do. She is always generous in sharing her expertise. Visit her website at www.dancingpelican.com.

Dr. Joe Gaydos lives on Orcas Island and is a wildlife veterinarian and Chief Scientist for the SeaDoc Society, a nonprofit science-based marine conservation program of the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine/Wildlife Health Center. Joe has focused SeaDoc's research efforts on the ecosystem-level challenges facing the Salish Sea and has worked to improve management and policy decisions regarding the stewardship of those resources. He's coauthor, with Audrey Benedict, of *The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest* and is currently working on a children's version. Joe has published extensively on marine wildlife health issues for such species as harbor seals, river otters, and killer whales. His profound passion for connecting people to the magic and vulnerability of the marine world is legendary!

Marilyn Hailbronner's drawings—rendered in pen and ink, scratchboard technique, and watercolor—grace Cloud Ridge's brochure and website. Her work as a naturalist artist is a reflection of her love for natural history and conservation. See Marilyn's artwork: www.wildinkwell.com

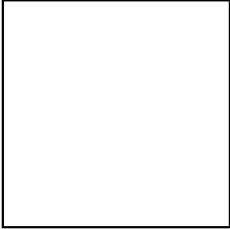
MORE INFORMATION?

Visit our website at www.CloudRidge.org for our 2018 trips, archived descriptions and images of previous trips, slideshows and video clips, and the latest offering from **Cloud Ridge Publishing**.

Cloud Ridge Naturalists

Audrey D. Benedict, Director
8297 Overland Road
Ward, Colorado 80481
Phone: (303) 459-3248 (land line)
Cell #: 303-589-0140
Email: audrey@cloudridge.org

BROCHURE CREDITS: Brochure design and text by Audrey Benedict. Brochure and website artwork by Marilyn Hailbronner. Cloud Ridge's original sage grouse logo is by Barbara Bash. Website photography by Audrey Benedict, Wendy Shattil, Geoff Hammerson, or by Oceanwide Expeditions or Swoop Antarctica's staff.



*Cloud Ridge
Naturalists*

*8297 Overland Road
Ward, CO 80481*

Return Service Requested

