

Venture to Washington

August 13-23, 2023

Itinerary

Please plan to arrive in Seattle on August 13

Day 1, August 13 **Arrival in Seattle**

Please plan to arrive in the afternoon or earlier. We will plan to meet for dinner and introductions at 6 pm. *Night in Seattle*

Day 2, August 14 **Drive to Leavenworth**

Today we will head northeast to the Leavenworth area, a quaint little German village, where we will visit a multitude of different habitats. We will travel over Stevens Pass to search for some high elevation birds such as Canada Jay and Clark's Nutcracker. Traveling up the mountain we will try for nesting Harlequin Ducks on Icicle Creek, White-headed Woodpecker, Anna's Hummingbird, American Dipper, White-throated Swift and more. *Night in Leavenworth*

Day 3, August 15 **Cascade Birding**

Today's adventure will be winding our way through the Cascade Mountains stopping at various spots such as the Wenas Audubon Camp for White-headed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Gray and Dusky Flycatchers, Mountain and Western Bluebirds and more. We'll also explore Yakima Canyon in search of Golden Eagle, Rock and Canyon Wren and Chukar. *Night in Yakima*

Day 4, August 16 **Eastern Washington**

Today we tour the dry side of Washington, traveling southeast searching for specialties of the dry country. We will head to the Tri-Cities (Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco) to visit McNary National Wildlife Refuge and the Colombia River. This area has some of the last remaining shub-steppe habitat in the state and we'll have a chance to see specialties like Sage Thrasher, Sagebrush and Brewer's Sparrows and Gray Partridge. We may also see Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Swainson's Hawk and Black-billed Magpie. *Night Yakima*

Day 5, August 17 **Mt. Rainier**

Today we will head over to Mt. Rainier National Park. We will spend the majority of the day in the park taking in its scenery and birds. Hoary Marmots are plentiful here and wildflowers should be in full bloom. We will hopefully get looks at Clark's Nutcracker, Varied Thrush, Sooty Grouse, Stellars & Canada Jay and many more. *Night in Packwood*

Day 6, August 18 **Drive to Port Angeles**

Today we will drive to Port Angeles, stopping at The Billy J. Frank Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, where we should find Willow Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and American Bittern. We'll also stop in the Belfair area to try for the elusive Mountain Quail.

Night in Port Angeles

Day 7, August 19 **Olympic NP**

This morning we will get up early and head up to Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park. We will climb to roughly 5200 feet from sea level. If it is a clear day the sweeping views of the Straits of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic Mountains will be amazing. We will spend the morning looking for some high elevation specialties. The afternoon will be spent at various hot spots around Port Angeles, such as Ediz Hook in Port Angeles where we will search for seabirds, shorebirds, and anything else that happens to be there. Birds we hope to see today are Sooty Grouse, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Canada Jay, Hammond's Flycatcher, Whimbrel, Rhinoceros Auklet, Vaux's Swift, and more.

Night in Port Angeles

Day 8, August 20 **Olympic Coast**

Today we will wind our way down the Olympic coast. We will visit the numbered beaches and Hoh Rainforest of Olympic National Park. The beautiful scenery is sure to impress. We will end up in Westport and if we have time will check the beach and wharf in Westport for any rarities that may be around. Birds we hope to see today are Townsend's Warbler, Varied Thrush, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and many more.

Night in Westport

Day 9, August 21 **Pelagic Trip**

Today we take to the ocean on an all-day pelagic tour. We will look for sea going birds including Black-footed Albatross, South Polar Skua, Red Phalarope, Tufted Puffin, Sabine's Gull and several species of Shearwater. We will also be looking for marine mammals such as whales, seals, sea lions and porpoise. If we have energy at the end of the day we will head down to Grayland Beach State Park for a little more sea watching.

Night in Westport

Day 10, August 22 **Drive to Seattle**

Today we'll head back to Seattle. We will visit a few hotspots around the coast, before continuing on to the Capital State Forest looking for Hermit, Black-throated Gray, and Townsend's Warbler, Sooty Grouse, and Varied Thrush, among many others

Today we head back home and take with us the memories of a great bird trip to the Pacific Northwest!

Day 11, Aug 23 Departure or Optional Extension to San Juan Islands

Today we take a ferry to the glacially tilled island of San Juan. The ferry winds through dozens of small islands on the way out to San Juan. This island is home to the only whale watching state park in the country where people search Haro Strait for local Orca pods. We will explore this wonderful island for most of the day, looking for some great birds such as Rhinoceros Auklet, Pigeon Guillemot, Black Oystercatcher, Marbled Murrelet, Black-throated Gray Warbler and many more. We will head back on the ferry tonight and make our way to Seattle to set up for a morning departure.