



Mass Audubon Tours
supporting conservation here and abroad



Ultimate Birding in the Pacific Northwest



May 25 - June 5, 2012

*with Wayne Petersen, Director of the Mass Audubon
Important Bird Area Program*

Travel with Mass Audubon
208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773
800-289-9504

DAILY ITINERARY

Friday, May 25 - Arrive in Seattle

Please arrive in the afternoon. We will arrange for you to meet your guides and travelling companions in the hotel lobby for dinner hosted by Wayne Peterson and our Seattle-based, local guide for the journey, Woody Wheeler. *Accommodations at Radisson hotel (near the airport) (D)*

Saturday, May 26 - Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge/ Olympic National Park

Early this morning, we pack up our things, stop at a quick breakfast place, and drive south so we can bird at the renowned Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge while bird activity should be prime. Here, we hope to see: American Bittern; Great Blue Heron; Great Egret; Osprey; Bald Eagle; Northern Harrier; Red-tailed Hawk; Peregrine Falcon; Band-tailed Pigeon; Rufous and Anna's Hummingbird; Willow and Pacific Slope Flycatcher; five species of swallows; Pacific, Bewick's and Marsh Wren; Yellow and Wilson's Warbler; Savannah, White-crowned and Song Sparrow, and more. We should find over 50 species here, while enjoying a portion of a five-mile hike available at the scenic refuge on boardwalks and trails.



Established in 1974 for the protection of migratory birds, this refuge encompasses 3000 acres of salt and freshwater marshes, grasslands, riparian areas, and mixed forest habitats which together provide resting and nesting areas for a wide variety of migratory waterfowl, raptors, wading birds, and songbirds. Last year, this outstanding refuge became even more interesting as a result of the construction of a one-mile board walk that leads through salt marsh wetlands to the shores of Puget Sound.

After a picnic lunch, we head for Olympic National Park and the lush west side of the mountains at Lake Quinault. En route, we will stop to see the world's largest Sitka Spruce. By late afternoon, we will check in at Lake Quinault Lodge. We will eat dinner as a group, if you wish in the historic dining room and perhaps a cozy fire in the beautiful lounge as we do our daily checklist. *Accommodations at Lake Quinault Lodge, Olympic National Park (B,L)*

Sunday, May 27- Olympic Peninsula Temperate Rainforest and Pacific Coast Beach

After a lovely breakfast at the lodge, we start today with an outing to a temperate rain forest on the north shore of Lake Quinault. We will learn about the native trees and plants of the region and experience the splendor of a cathedral-like ancient forest while searching for old-growth forest birds such as Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Pygmy-Owl, and Northern Spotted Owl. After our ancient forest hike and lunch, we will hike through a younger Sitka Spruce forest to a scenic beach on the Pacific Ocean. Here we'll enjoy amazing views of dramatic sea stacks and crashing surf while looking for shorebirds, alcids, cormorants, otters, and seals.

There is also a gorgeous two-mile hike through Sitka Spruce forest to Second Beach, a lovely wilderness beach where we may spot Brown Pelican; Osprey; Peregrine Falcon; Black Oystercatcher; Western and Glaucous-winged Gull; Caspian Tern; and Tufted Puffin. Mammals to watch for include Sea Otter and Harbor Seal.

In the afternoon, we will return to Lake Quinault Lodge where energetic guests can take a sunset canoe paddle out on the crystal clear waters of Lake Quinault. We will set up reservations for you at staggered times so you can have dinner at your leisure at the hotel. *Accommodations at Lake Quinault Lodge, Olympic National Park (B,L)*

Monday, May 28 - Ruby Beach / Ediz' Hook near Port Angeles / Dungeness River Audubon Center

Today we explore the west coast of Washington's Olympic Peninsula, traveling north and then east over to Port Angeles, Sequim, and the wonderful birding at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. It's a very scenic route, with numerous stops to look for lake and seabirds along the way. At Ruby Beach, we will have a chance to enjoy a rugged Pacific Coast beach complete with sea stacks, tide pools, and sea birds. This is the favorite haunt of nesting Peregrine Falcons and we often find Black Oystercatchers as well. Lunch is in the town of Forks (once a logging town, now famous from its vampire movie filming) where you can choose from a couple of local cafes that offer everything from healthy fare to burgers and shakes.

At Port Angeles, a port city and the largest town on the peninsula, we will travel along Ediz' Hook, to look for waterfowl and shorebirds, including Harlequin Duck, Rhinoceros Auklet, and the threatened Marbled Murrelet. Once at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, you can enjoy deciduous (riverine) forests as well as fine bird exhibits, feeders, and a walk alongside the Dungeness River, a salmon-spawning stream. Birds we'll watch for here include California Quail; Western Wood-Pewee; Red-eyed Vireo; Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; American Dipper; and Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Dinner is at a favorite local restaurant where Dungeness Crab is a specialty. *Accommodations— Holiday Inn Express, Sequim (B,D)*



Tuesday, May 29 - Dungeness Spit and Hurricane Ridge

After breakfast at the hotel, we will experience two of the Olympic Peninsula's most spectacular features: Dungeness Spit and Hurricane Ridge. Dungeness Spit is a National Wildlife Refuge and an Important Bird Area. It features a four-mile round trip hike through mature coniferous forest leading abruptly down to a 4.5-mile long spit overlooking Puget Sound, the San Juan Islands, and Cascade Volcanoes. The spit's marshes, grasslands, and driftwood/dunes provide excellent habitat for migrant and resident birds, including various waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, and terns. The sheltered waters and mudflats of the spit also provide great habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. Among the species to be expected here are Brant; Pacific and Common Loon; Western Grebe; Western and Glaucous-winged Gull; Common Murre; Rhinoceros Auklet; and Pigeon Guillemot. We plan to walk a mile or so onto the spit and then back again, all the while getting a good idea of which species are around while enjoying the scenic views from this natural wonder.



After a full morning of hiking the spit, we'll have lunch in town, and then drive a wonderfully scenic road up to the tree-line of the Olympic Mountains. A short hike at Hurricane Ridge will produce a completely

different set of flora and fauna, including birds like Sooty Grouse; Vaux's and Black Swift; Gray and Steller's Jay; Horned Lark; Townsend's Solitaire; and American Pipit. Black-tailed Deer, Roosevelt Elk, Mountain Goat, Black Bear, and Olympic Marmot (an endemic mammal) are also possible sightings here. Following visits to these amazing, yet relatively close in proximity, sites we will return for dinner to a fine French restaurant. Accommodations – Holiday Inn Express, Sequim (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 30- Whidbey Island

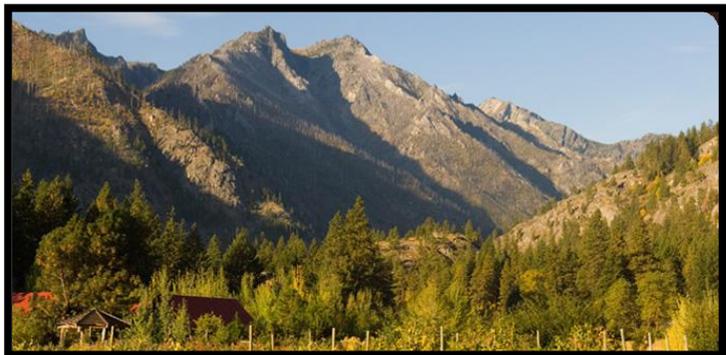
After breakfast and packing up our gear, we will drive to Port Townsend, where we board the Washington State ferry. A short ride across the deep Straits of Juan de Fuca provides a fine place to watch for loons, cormorants, gulls, and alcids. Upon reaching Protection and Whidbey Islands, we'll scan for birds, since this Important Bird Area is particularly good for raptors and shorebirds.

Depending on the ferry schedule, we will drive to Ft. Ebey Bluff, a Nature Conservancy (TNC) preserve where the endangered Golden Paintbrush occurs, along with great scenic vistas, and additional sea birds and mammals. A botanist from TNC will join us for this walk to discuss management issues at the preserve. The town of Coupeville is an artisan village located right on the water. There is also a wonderful selection of restaurants and birding off the pier just a block from our hotel. Dinner tonight is at your leisure – earlier in the day we can help with reservations. *Accommodations the Coupeville Inn, Coupeville (B,L,)*

Thursday, May 31 - Whidbey Island: Deception State Park

Today, we will explore Deception Pass State Park where we will find 4000 acres of a mix of habitats that include scenic coastlines, forests, and three inland lakes. At the park's most impressive scenic vista point, rugged cliffs mark the channel of the turbulent waters that churn up rich resources for seabirds such as Tufted Puffin and Rhinoceros Auklet. Within the park, trails lead us to ancient forests and a marsh near Cranberry Lake, highlighting part of the biodiversity highlighted by the park's bird list of some 175 species.

Deception Pass was named by Captain George Vancouver who recognized Whidbey (named for his assistant seaman) was an island rather than a peninsula leading to the mainland. We enjoy a leisurely start, and then explore the park and other nearby sites. The excursion ends with pie at the local Greenbank Farms—a real treat at the height of berry season! Dinner is again at your leisure, with restaurants within easy walking distance from the hotel. *Accommodations the Coupeville Inn, Coupeville (B,L)*



Friday, June 1 ~ Rockport State Park / North Cascades National Park / Rainy Lake/Washington Pass

After breakfast, we'll drive to the northern part of Whidbey to cross by the Deception Pass Bridge back to the mainland. We will depart early, since we are headed for one of the most scenic drives in the United States: The North Cascade Highway. Fortunately, we have time to stop in several places to savor the scenery and look for additional birds and wildlife. We cross the Skagit River valley and farther along, stop at Colonial Creek. In the surrounding lush and beautiful forests we hope to find Northern Goshawk. We

will also walk a lovely trail, with a chance for sighting Northern Pygmy-Owl, and possibly Northern Spotted Owl, in a majestic old-growth forest at Rockport State Park.

After a picnic lunch, complimented by an ice-cream and berry treat at a favorite spot, we'll start our ascent (via road) over the mountains to North Cascades National Park. This very wild, rugged, and pristine park has nearly 400 miles of trails and vast undeveloped wilderness, allowing visitors to experience nature with minimal human-caused intrusions. While the elusive Gray Wolf and predatory Wolverine are rare, we should see Mountain Goat, Hoary Marmot, and Pika.



We will make a quick stop at the North Cascades National Park's Visitor Center before undertaking a one mile hike to Rainy Lake, a glacial cirque in a sub-alpine forest. Further along, we'll stop at Washington Pass to look for Pine Grosbeak, Clark's Nutcracker, American Three-toed Woodpecker, and Common Raven. From Washington Pass, it's a quick descent down to our lovely log-architecture lodge near Mazama. Dinner at the lodge keeps us in reach of the birds, too—possibly a brood of Barrow's Goldeneyes—on a small pond within sight of the restaurant. It's also excellent cuisine! *Accommodations at Freestone Inn, Mazama (B,L,D)*

Saturday, June 2 - Beaver Pond / Sun Mountain / Winthrop

Rising early, we'll take a two mile walk around Beaver Pond. This well-vegetated pond and nearby wetland are surrounded by alder, maple, cottonwood, Ponderosa Pine, and Douglas Fir. The site is a magnet for birds of the east side of the Cascades, including Barrow's Goldeneye; Redhead, Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsucker; Cassin's Finch; and Pine Siskin. Ruffed Grouse and the elusive Flammulated Owl can sometimes be found here, too. The dry Ponderosa Pine and Western Larch Forest nearby features a different suite of understory flora from the west side of the state, including such species as Arrow-leafed Balsamroot, Showy Phlox, and Mountain Lady Slipper.

After our walk here, we'll enjoy a scenic lunch at Sun Mountain Lodge. There will then be time to look around the very western town of Winthrop, where we may spot a Lewis' Woodpecker, and possibly both Western and Mountain Bluebird as well! We may choose to stay in Winthrop for an early supper or return to the lodge to dine at your leisure. *Accommodations at Freestone Inn, Mazama (B,L)*

Sunday, June 3

North Cascades Scenic Loop / Columbia River / Leavenworth / Sleeping Lady Resort

Today, we complete much of the scenic byway known as the North Cascades Loop, stopping first at the Twisp Bakery for a treat and to collect our picnic lunch for later in the day. Lunch will be enjoyed at Confluence Park, where the Wenatchee River meets the Columbia River. Here we can search for Eastern and Western Kingbird; Black-crowned Night Heron; and Eared and Clark's Grebe. Yellow-bellied Marmots are also frequently seen here.

Upon reaching Leavenworth, we stretch our legs on easy trails at Waterfront Park, one of the best-remaining stands of riparian cottonwood forest in central Washington. This is an excellent place to find Wood Duck, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bullock's Oriole, and Evening Grosbeak. Leavenworth has taken its German heritage to the hilt—those that want to stray from birding can enjoy some quality shopping here.



We drive on, a short ways from town, to enfold ourselves in the relaxing ambiance of Sleeping Lady Resort. This is an extraordinary, environmentally award-winning base from which to focus on birding and nature on the east side of the Cascades. Feel free to indulge in a swim in the naturalistic, yet heated outdoor pool! *Accommodations at Sleeping Lady Resort, Leavenworth (B,L,D)*

Monday, June 4 - Sleeping Lady Resort / Leavenworth Fish Hatchery / Icicle Gorge

Wake up to bird the grounds at Sleeping Lady where Harlequin Duck; Common Merganser; White-headed Woodpecker; American Dipper; and Red-breasted Crossbill are often present. Then enjoy the gourmet buffet breakfast prior to heading to the National Fish Hatchery, one mile away. This area, with its riparian vegetation and broad vistas of the Cascade Mountains boasts a huge bird list including Common Merganser; White-headed, Pileated, and Hairy Woodpecker; American Dipper; five species of warblers; Western Tanager; and Cassin's Finch.

End the day by walking up the Icicle Gorge where we will look and listen for Canyon and Rock Wren, and search for Hermit and Swainson's Thrush, Black-headed Grosbeak, and possibly even a Northern Goshawk. Return to Sleeping Lady for our final dinner—another great feast! *Accommodations at Sleeping Lady Resort, Leavenworth (B,L,D)*

Tuesday, June 5 - Departures from Seattle

All good things must come to an end. En route back to the airport, we will make a rest stop at Deception Falls, take a short walk to a very scenic waterfall and gorge set in an ancient forest, to look and listen for Pacific Wren; Hermit and Varied Thrush; and American Dipper; also to breathe in that last, wonderful scent of Pacific Northwest forests!

We plan to be at the airport in Seattle by 10:45 for flights at NOON onwards. (B)

MASS AUDUBON GUIDE



Wayne Petersen is Mass Audubon's Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBA) program. He has led trips and tours, lectured, and conducted birding workshops across North America for over thirty-five years. His tour-leading experiences have taken him from the Arctic to South America, as well as Iceland, Svalbard, Africa, Madagascar, Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica. Wayne was a founding member of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, is a New England Regional Editor for *North American Birds*, and serves on the advisory committee for the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. His writing projects include authoring the National Audubon Society's *Pocket Guide to Songbirds and Familiar Backyard Birds (East)*, coauthoring *Birds of Massachusetts* and *Birds of New England*, co-editing the *Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas*, and contributing to *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, and *Arctic Wings*. In 2005, Wayne was the recipient of the American Birding Association's Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions in regional ornithology. He is especially interested in seabirds and shorebirds, and he derives great satisfaction from sharing his knowledge of the natural world with his fellow colleagues and traveling.

LOCAL GUIDE

Guide **Woody Wheeler** resides in Seattle and has worked very closely with us to arrange the best-possible tour stops. He is a birding and natural history tour guide, teacher, and presenter who specializes in Pacific Northwest natural areas. Woody is a former certified teacher who studied at Western Washington University where he obtained Environmental Studies and Geography degrees. In addition, he took Wildlife Conservation and Ornithology courses at University of Washington, the Washington Master Birding Program at Seattle Audubon, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Bird Biology Course.



TOUR COST AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

PRICE: \$3600 from Seattle, based on double occupancy. Single supplement is \$900

Price includes: all accommodations, meals as listed in the itinerary, professional guide services, other park and program entrance fees and miscellaneous program expenses.

Tour cost does not include: round-trip transportation from your home city to Seattle, some meals (one lunch and 5 dinners), optional activities or items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone charges, maid gratuities or beverages from the bar.

Group Size: Maximum of 14, minimum of 8.

Pace of the tour: Moderate extensive field time with 1-5 miles walks that let us sample various habitats. Along the hikes you can pace yourself as you wish, but to fully participate you should be able to walk at least three miles over uneven terrain. We offer some free time at each location to sample local restaurants and browse through picturesque towns.

Travel Information: Most major airlines serve Seattle. You're likely to find better fares the earlier you can book your travel. You may wish to arrive early to rest from your travels and see a bit of the city. Plan to arrive no later than 4:00 PM on May 25, and depart after NOON on June 5.



RESERVATION/APPLICATION FORM (2 SIDES)

Passenger 1 Name _____

Nickname for Name tag: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Passenger 2 Name _____

Nickname for Name tag: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

Room Preferences

____ I request single accommodations where available and will pay the single supplement.

____ I would like to be assigned a roommate. If one is not available, I will pay the single supplement.

Personal Information:

____ I/We are non-smokers. (If you are a smoker(s), please check here ____ and note that smoking is limited to outdoors in non-group spaces)

____ I have a food allergy (Yes / No). If **Yes**, please list: _____

____ I prefer a special diet (Yes / No). If **Yes**, please list: _____

____ I am allergic to medications, insects other: List _____
(you are required to carry your own Epi-pen and necessary medications)

____ Is there anything else we should know about your health that might impact your ability to participate comfortably on this trips? Please describe: _____

Deposit: Please find my enclosed **check** _____ or please **charge** _____ my credit card for the deposit:

VISA MC Card # _____ Exp. _____

Checks should be made payable to "Massachusetts Audubon Society"

Signature:

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: Work/Daytime: _____ Home or Cell: _____

Release and Assumption of Risk

I would like to participate in the birding and nature tour named above (the "Tour") organized by Massachusetts Audubon Society, Inc. ("Mass Audubon"). I am aware that participation in a Mass Audubon tour involves risk, including, but not limited to, the hazards of living in and traveling over unpredictable terrain often in remote areas without adequate medical facilities, exposure to disease and infection, being subject to the forces of nature, and travel by airplane and motor vehicle.

In addition, I understand and acknowledge that, if I participate in the Tour, one or more of the risks described above or set forth here could result in or cause bodily injury or death to me or damage to personal property of mine: Physical exertion, Travel by foot, plane, train, auto, vans, bus, boat or other conveyance, Consumption of food and beverages, Civil unrest, terrorism, banditry, or criminal activity, High altitude, Inadequate medical facilities or service.

I acknowledge that I have received and read carefully information describing the Tour, including, but not limited to, the Terms and Conditions and the paragraph in the Terms and Conditions entitled "Your Responsibility". I acknowledge that the enjoyment and excitement of touring is derived, at least in part, from the inherent risks incurred by travel and activity beyond the accepted safety and routine of life at home or work, and that part of the reason I have decided to participate in the Tour is to experience this enjoyment and excitement. I further acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to discuss with my medical provider the medical risks involved in the Tour. I have also had the opportunity to research the Tour and to understand fully the risks involved.

Therefore, notwithstanding the risks of participating in the Tour set forth and as described above, and in consideration of Mass Audubon permitting me to participate in the Tour:

- (1) I agree to assume and accept all risks associated with this tour; and
- (2) I hereby release and forever discharge and covenant and agree not to sue, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless, Mass Audubon and its Directors, Officers, Employees and agents (collectively the "Releasees"), and each of the releasees from and against and in regard to any and all Claims, demands, actions suits, losses, costs, damages, and expenses and any and all liabilities and obligations, which I shall or may have against the Releasees or any one or more of them arising out of, or in connection with, my participation on the tour.

I agree that this release and Assumption of Risk shall be (a) binding upon me and my heirs, executors, legal representatives, successors, and assigns, and (b) deemed a contract made under seal under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the internal laws of said Commonwealth without regard to its principles of conflict of laws.

I have carefully read, understand, and voluntarily sign this release and assumption of Risk.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

TERMS & CONDITIONS

APPLICATIONS, RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS: Early applications are strongly encouraged. Trip rosters usually must be finalized 4 months before departure! All applications must be accompanied by a completed reservation form and a \$500 deposit. Deposits can be by check or credit card (Visa or MasterCard). We reserve the right to decline your application. In the case of questionable health, we reserve the right to require a physician's certification to affirm you are capable of the activities. Final payment is due 90 days before the departure date. Final payment must be by check or money order.

RATES: All tour prices are based on double occupancy. If you would like us to find you a roommate, we will do our best, but cannot guarantee a share. If we cannot find a share, you will need to pay the single supplement. All forms and fares are accurate at the time of publication August, 2011 but are subject to change at any time prior to departure. It is our policy to only pass on the actual amount of any increases in airfares or land costs such as those increases due to the devaluation of the dollar. Rarely, a price increase may be called for if the group falls below the minimum, as listed in the itinerary.

FLIGHTS: You, the traveler, are responsible for booking and paying for your own flights to and from Seattle, Washington. Once you reserve your space, we will provide you with suggested flights and tell you which flights our leaders will take. You may book flights directly with the airline, online, or with a travel agent. Please be aware that most tickets are non-refundable, therefore you should not book your flight arrangements until you have checked with us to be sure the tour has the minimum number of participants for the trip to go. We ask that you provide us with your flight details so we can be sure to meet you at the airport upon your arrival.

PHOTOS: Mass Audubon reserves the right to make use of any photograph taken on the tour. We guarantee that no photos of a comprising nature will be used. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

TRIP INSURANCE: A brochure and application for optional trip cancellation, illness and baggage insurance will be sent to you upon registrations. We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect yourself. Mass Audubon does provide Medical Evacuation Coverage as part of the tour price.

CANCELLATION Policy: If you need to change your booking, you must inform us immediately in writing. All cancellations must be done in writing and are effective upon receipt in the Massachusetts Audubon Travel Office. Cancellations received up to 121 days prior to departure will be refunded deposits less a \$300 per person fee. For cancellations between 120 and 90 days prior to departure, all deposits will not be refunded. There are no refunds for cancellations 90 days or less from departure. We strongly urge all travelers to purchase trip cancellation insurance. You will be sent information from the Massachusetts Audubon Society upon receipt of your deposit.

Your Responsibility: Although every precaution is taken to safeguard you and your belongings, group travel trips by their nature involve a certain amount of risk. Trip participants should understand that the domestic and international trips sponsored/operated by Massachusetts Audubon Society (Mass Audubon Tours) - hereafter collectively "M.A.S." - involve known and unknown risks. M.A.S. assumes no responsibility for injuries, death, financial losses or damage to clients' property caused by or occurring during participation in any of the travel trips sponsored/operated by M.A.S. Trip participants must assume responsibility for having sufficient skill and fitness to participate in the trips and activities offered or sponsored by M.A.S. Trip participants must also certify that they have no medical, mental or physical conditions which could interfere with their abilities to participate in the activities and/or trips they are participating in and they must assume and bear the cost of all risks that may be created, directly or indirectly, by any such condition. It is the responsibility of trip participants to have in place adequate insurance to cover any injury, damage or emergency transportation costs related to their travel and/or participation in trip activities and/or to bear the costs of such injury, damage or emergency transportation costs. Because of the risks associated with the travel trips sponsored by M.A.S. we urge all trip participants to supplement their own insurance with travel or vacation or emergency response types of insurance. M.A.S. requires that all trip participants acknowledge and assume these risks by reading and signing an M.A.S. Release and Waiver and Assumption of Risk contract prior to departure.

CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL: Travelers will be provided with an itinerary and trip preparation information. It is expected that travelers will read this information prior to trip departure. Travelers will be responsible for completing an application reservation form, including the personal information and a release of liability. (see attached) Travelers will be expected to abide by the terms set for in the invoice. During the tour, travelers are asked to respect and follow the directions of their guide and leader.