ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Washington State

Pacific Northwest Birding

12th August to 22nd August 2022 (11 days)



Pigeon Guillemot by Adam Riley

Visit the spectacular Pacific Northwest in its finest season on this 11-day Venture to the state of Washington. We will visit the Olympic Peninsula, Puget Sound, the Cascade Mountains, and the Columbia River Basin, covering a vast variety of habitats both wet and dry, from scenic, rocky cliff coastlines to above the treeline, and from rain forest to high desert. Highlights will include visits to both Olympic and Mt. Rainier National Parks, where we will search the high elevations for such specialties as Clark's Nutcracker, Canada Jay, Mountain Bluebird and Sooty Grouse, among many others.

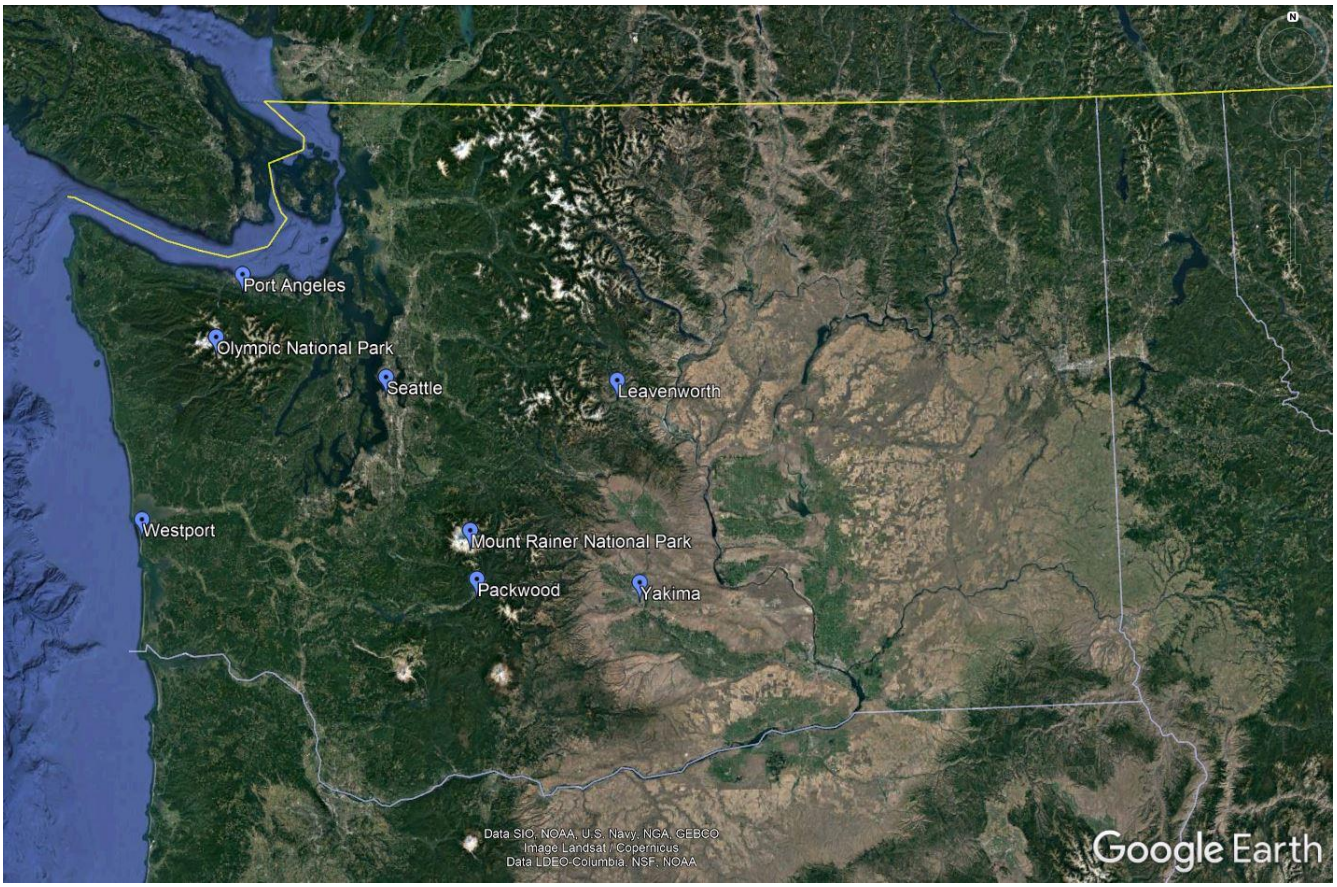
Participants will also enjoy an all-day pelagic trip exploring the submarine Gray's Canyon, located on the edge of the Continental Shelf, where we should see an excellent variety of pelagic birds such as Black-footed Albatross, Red Phalarope, South Polar Skua plus several species of shearwaters and storm-petrels, and marine mammals including whales, porpoises, sea lions and seals. Expect to see many new birds on this venture which should yield a total of close to 200 species!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

ITINERARY

Day 1	**Arrive in Seattle**
Day 2	**Seattle to Leavenworth**
Day 3	**Cascade Mountains**
Day 4	**Eastern Washington**
Day 5	**Mount Rainer National Park**
Day 6	**Port Angeles**
Day 7	**Olympic National Park**
Day 8	**Olympic Coastal birding**
Day 9	**Pelagic Trip**
Day 10	**Seattle**
Day 11	**Final departure, or optional extension to San Juan Islands**

TOUR MAP



THE TOUR IN DETAIL…



Clarke's Nutcracker by Markus Lilje

Day 1: Arrive in Seattle. Please plan to arrive in the afternoon or earlier. We plan to meet for dinner and introductions at 18:00 this evening.

Day 2: Seattle 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.

Day 3: Cascade Mountains. 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, American Grey 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 Partridge.

Day 4: 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 shrub-steppe habitat in the state and we'll have a chance to see specialties like Sage Thrasher, Sagebrush and Brewer's Sparrows and Grey Partridge. We may also see Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Swainson's Hawk and Black-billed Magpie.



Lewis's Woodpecker by Stephan Lorenz

Day 5: Mount Rainer National Park. 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, Stellar's & Canada Jay and many more.



Mountain Bluebird by Forrest Rowland

Day 6: 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.

Day 7: Olympic National Park. This morning we will get up early and head up to Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park. We will climb to roughly 5200 feet above 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, Hudsonian Whimbrel, Rhinoceros Auklet, Vaux's Swift and more.

Day 8: Olympic Coastal birding. 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.



Black-tailed Albatross by Adam Riley

Day 9: 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

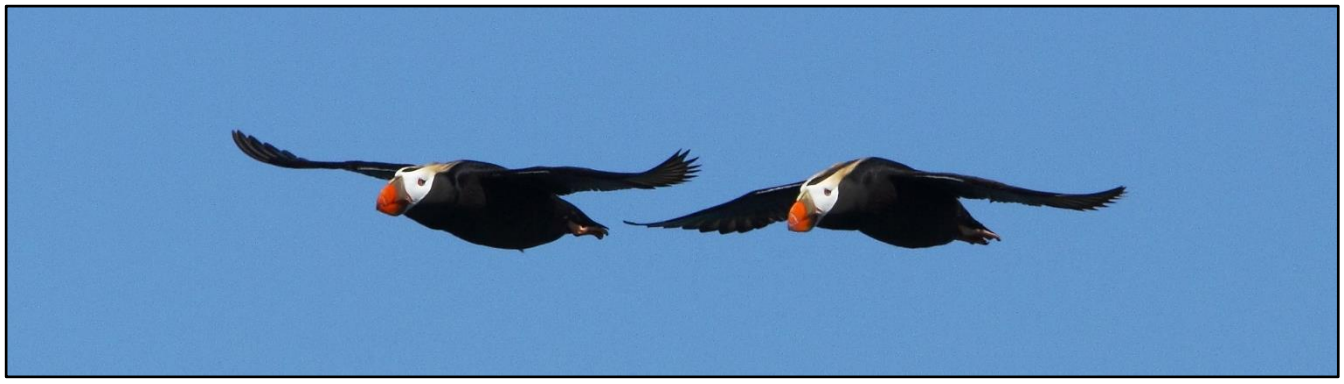
day, we will head down to Grayland Beach State Park for a little more sea watching.



Pygmy Nuthatch by Stephan Lorenz

Day 10: 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 Grey, and Townsend's Warblers, Sooty Grouse, and Varied Thrush.

Day 11: Final departure, or optional extension to San Juan Islands. Those not continuing with our short San Juan Islands extension will depart the tour after breakfast this morning, whilst everyone else will board 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 Grey 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 tomorrow.



Tufted Puffins by Adam Riley

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for these tours are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

The tour price includes:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 11;
- All accommodations;
- Ground transportation;

- All reserve entrance fees;
- All leader and guiding services.

…and excludes:

- Any airfares, taxes and visa costs;
- Any beverages;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and items of a personal nature.
- The optional extension to San Juan Islands. Prices and exact logistics for this extension will be quoted separately on request.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated tour leader at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, porters and restaurants) are NOT included on this tour. If you feel that your leader has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS

This tour **does not** include ANY international airfares. The tour will commence with dinner on day 1 at our Seattle lodgings. The tour will conclude at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport after breakfast on day 11.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (IATA: SEA) is the main port of entry and exit for this tour. **Please DO NOT book your international flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**