Coastal Oregon and California’s Redwoods

“The redwoods, once seen, leave a mark or create a vision that stays with you always... The feeling they produce is not transferable. From them comes silence and awe. It’s not only their unbelievable stature, nor the color which seems to shift and vary under your eyes, no, they are not like any trees we know, they are ambassadors from another time.”

— John Steinbeck

Trip Packets

Our PDF Trip Packets are being updated all the time. Ensure you have the most recent version by clicking here.

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Trip Overview

The Pacific Northwest is one of the most beautiful places in the world during springtime. Backcountry Journeys is excited to offer a photography workshop featuring two distinct areas of the Pacific Northwest – the southern Oregon Coast and California’s Redwoods National Park. This workshop will be packed with great photography opportunities. We will spend the week chasing light over the rugged seascapes of southern Oregon, photographing wildflowers, and seeing some of the largest trees on the planet.

Our trip begins with several days along the Oregon Coast. The Oregon Coast stretches 363 miles and is considered by many to be the most beautiful coastline in the United States. The coast encompasses 79 state parks, 11 lighthouses, and 11 specially designed bridges. All 363 miles of the coast are rugged, perhaps the most rugged in the lower 48. Sea stacks, caves, and tide pools line most of the beaches and access is very
good. There are endless compositions for avid landscape photographers. We will spend our time traversing south from Bandon, OR and we will visit the best beaches along the way.

The second part of the trip will focus on Redwoods National Park in Northern California. Redwoods National Park is home to some of the most majestic forests on earth. California’s Coastal Redwoods can achieve heights of almost 400 feet and survive up to 2,000 years. The park offers much more than the Redwoods – Spring brings a cornucopia of wildflower blooms to the park and its forests are often shrouded in fog (great for photos!). There are two wildflower species that we will be after – rhododendrons and lupines. Rhododendrons live amongst the towering Redwoods and have vibrant pink flowers, while the lupines thrive on the open hills overlooking the forests. With some luck, we will be able to see both species and photograph them.

All in all, a ton is packed into this workshop. It is one of our favorite workshops to host because of the diversity of landscapes we visit. Join us for a great experience you won’t soon forget!

Please note: This is a “hiker” trip because there are a few hikes involved (although not every day). The hikes are relatively easy but can and will test folks who are not normally active. For some of the beaches, participants will need to be able to hike uphill through sandy and uneven rocky terrain, with no handrails or other aids. Hikes are a maximum of 4 miles roundtrip.

Highlights

- Peak Wildflower & Rhododendron Season
- Mind blowing Seascapes
- Massive Coastal Redwoods
- Some of the BEST landscape photography on the planet
- Small groups
- Cozy hotels in Southern Oregon & Northern California
- Shoot alongside a professional photographer
Noteworthy Travel Logistics

- This trip begins in Eugene, Oregon
- You can arrive at any time on Day One of the tour as long as you arrive in time for the 5pm orientation meeting that evening.
- The trip will conclude on Day Six and you can fly out of Crescent City or Eugene, Oregon

Transportation On-Tour

- We will provide ground transportation from Day One to Day Six of your tour.
Itinerary

Most meals included – (B,L,D) denotes Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day One (Travel Day) (D)

We will meet for an orientation dinner at 5pm in the small, quaint city of Eugene, OR. We will discuss trip logistics and the plan for the week. Eugene gives up great access to the southern coast and our adventure will begin the next day.

Day Two (B,L,D)

We will get an early start today and head towards the coast. Our destination is Bandon, OR - which is approximately 3 hours away. There are many scenic beaches along the way though and we will make stops along the coast, weather permitting.
Once in Bandon, OR we will check into our hotel and take a small break until early dinner. Our sunset spot tonight is the iconic Bandon Beach. It is one of the best beaches in Oregon and it is very photogenic.

**Day Three (B,L,D)**

We will wake up for an early sunrise and head back to Bandon Beach. Sunrise offers a unique perspective of the beach. We will capture the sun hitting the Bandon Beach sea stacks and search for wildflowers. After some breakfast, we will pack up and head to our next spot – Brookings, OR. The theme of the week will be early dinners. After dinner, we will go to a beach within the Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor for sunset. This is another beach that will make your jaw drop. The tide always makes this beach interesting too. We might be able to find some tidal waterfalls and streams for our compositions.

**Day Four (B,L,D)**

Sunrise will bring us to a beach nestled along Cape Sebastian. We will again be searching for spring blooms of wildflowers along the coast. The morning light is great here and we might even get lucky with some fog as well. Light permitting, we might head into the Redwoods this morning too. We will setup base in Crescent City, CA before grabbing dinner. Sunset will bring us back within the Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor.

**Day Five (B,L,D)**

We will head into Redwoods National Park mid-morning to photograph the amazing trees. Light is best just after sunrise, as the forest can often have a light fog rolling around. We will hike a short trail and go as far as we like. Our focus will be the rhododendron bloom and the Redwoods. We will shoot for as long as the light
permits.
We will enjoy a final dinner tonight and then prepare for sunset. The
Oregon Coast is back on our agenda for sunset and we will travel back
to Oregon in hunt of more sea stacks. Depending on weather, we
might stay in Redwoods National Park and search for blooming
lupines.

Day Six (B)

We will travel into the hills above the coastal forests in the morning.
Oftentimes, the hills are covered in lupine during spring, but each
year varies. If we have time, we will do another short hike amongst
the Redwoods. After our shoot, we will head back to Crescent City and
then return to Eugene, OR.
Flights can be booked out in evening from either Crescent City, CA or
Eugene, OR.

Please Note: Weather delays are possible, and we highly recommend
travel insurance. The exact sequence of the itineraries on all
photography trips will be based on weather and lighting conditions. The
goal on these trips is to make sure we are at the right place at the right
time for the perfect light on our subjects. Also, itineraries can change
for a variety of other circumstances including floods, forest fires,
national park closures, road closures and more. Due to the nature of
wildlife and nature photography we do not guarantee any specific
sightings or specific compositions regarding wildlife or natural
phenomena.
Trip Details

Physical Requirements
All participants must be in good physical condition and have the ability to hike with camera equipment and essential gear. For example, tripod, camera, lense(s), sunscreen, water (up to 2 liters person), snacks, and extra layers (if necessary). The weight of your pack largely depends on what gear you choose to bring on each hike. Typically backpacks weigh between 15 and 20 lbs. But remember the choice is yours 😊

Group Size
We keep groups small to maximize your one on one time with the guide/instructor.
Accommodation
We will be staying at cozy hotels along the Oregon Coast and in Northern California.

Trip length
6 days

Meeting Time and Place
5pm on Day One at our hotel in Eugene

Fitness Level:
All participants must be in good physical condition and have the ability to walk a daypack.

Trip Conclusion
The trip will conclude in Eugene, Oregon, and flights can be scheduled out of Eugene or Crescent City, California on Day Six.

Price/Start Dates
Coastal Oregon & California’s Redwoods

Meals
Most meals are included during the trip dates. Dinners are at handpicked local restaurants. We often do snacks on the trail and then return for a late breakfast during photography trips as we are often out early to capture the morning light.

Weather
Expect warm pleasant days with cold misty mornings and evenings. The weather can prove unpredictable in the Pacific Northwest and can change on a moment’s notice. Remember some of the best photographs are made before, during and immediately after a storm cycle. There is no such thing as bad weather just poor layering and gear choices – please plan accordingly! For more info on what to bring please email or call us.
General Link to weather conditions: Current Weather Forecast Bandon, OR and Current Weather Forecast Crescent City, CA

We recommend checking this weather link prior to your trip departure to plan your gear and clothing packing accordingly.

**Price Includes**
Most meals, ground transportation, accommodation during the trip dates: from the evening of Day One through the morning of Day Six, professional photography instruction, medically certified wilderness guide, & gratuities for service personnel such as drivers, pilots, captains as well as hotel & restaurant staff.

**Price Does Not Include**
Airfare, alcoholic beverages, accommodations before or after the trip dates, souvenirs & trip leader gratuities *(industry standard is typically 10%-20% of the trip cost based on your experience)*

**Lodging & Meals**

Backcountry Journeys Photography Tours & Workshops include most meals, lodging, ground transportation while on the tour, guide fees and other items essential to a successful trip – meaning that once your there all you will have to focus on is your photography. We can accommodate most special diets so please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.
**Gear List**

This gear list should answer a lot of your gear questions so please read through this carefully. If you still have questions, please give us a call.

While spending time in the outdoors in the elements your clothing is a system of layers that you add and subtract according to the weather and temperature.

**Please Note:**

*Rain Gear is extremely important for both you and your camera!*

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**Photo & Field Gear**

**Recommended Camera Gear:**

- DSLR or Mirrorless Camera. *(Nikon, Canon, Sony, Panasonic etc.)*
- Medium Telephoto Zoom Lens *(100–400mm zoom or equivalent)*
- Wide-angle Lens *(10-20mm, 16-35mm or equivalent zoom)*
- Normal Lenses (ranging from approximately 35mm to 100mm)
- Filters: circular polarizer and neutral density 4-Stop or more
- Sturdy Tripod
- Memory Cards
- Batteries & Chargers
- Lens cleaning pen & cloth
- Camera Day Pack (this should appropriately carry all your camera and have a rain cover)
- Camera Rain Sleeve

**Optional (but recommended) Camera Gear:**

- Back-Up Camera Body
- 1.4x tele converter *(for bird enthusiasts only)*
- Laptop Computer with Lightroom / Photoshop Pre-Installed *(for personal use in hotels for downloading images while on tour.)*
• External Hard Drives
• Remote Shutter Trigger
• Camera’s Instruction Manual

Suggested Field Gear & Clothing:

• Personal Field Clothing (think layers)
• Warm top, such as a long-sleeved sweater or fleece jacket
• Long pants
• Warm Hat & Gloves (This is a Must!)
• Down Jacket
• “Softshell” Jacket lightly insulated windproof/breathable jacket for layering and protection from wind
• Long Underwear (synthetic top & bottom)
• Rubber boots/waders (seascape photography often involves getting your feet wet)
• Socks (Smartwool, Darn Tough etc.)
• Brimmed Sun Hat
• Sunglasses
• Sturdy Hiking Boots
• Casual wear, for your evenings off the boat
• Water Bottle or Hydration System (2 liters)
• Rain shell, waterproof/breathable jacket
• Rain Pants
• Shooting Gloves
• Binoculars (optional)
• Headlamp (optional)
• Sunscreen
• Knee pads (for low-angle shooting)
• Personal toiletries & medications
• Money, for tipping your guides (industry standard is generally 10%-20% of the trip cost based on your experience), and for any personal expenses not included in the tour package such as alcoholic beverages, a few of the meals, souvenirs, etc.

This is a general list. Call with any questions!
Note on Packing for the tour: Please pack your extra clothing, toiletries, extra camera gear, and other travel items into a suitcase, duffel or travel bag. You will not bring all your camera gear on every hike or outing. Each evening you will be briefed on which lenses, filters, etc. you will need to carry the following day on the scheduled tour or hike.