



13534 35th Ave NE Seattle, WA 98125 (206) 363-0859

OUTING SERVICES TRIPS SUMMER 2009

6/11-18 SLOTCANYON EXPLORATION

The Paria River has cut deep into the soft sandstone, hundreds of feet deep, and the walls of the canyon are striated in bands of pink and red and ocher and copper and gold, smoothed by water into intricate rippled patterns and glazed by the sun. In the heart of a canyon, nature is stripped to its barest elements: rock, water, sky. There is the silty trickle of a stream below, and far far above, a thin strip of sky, providing only the skinniest ribbon of blue. The canyonlands of the four corners region of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico have, quite simply, some of the most mesmerizing, and beautiful terrain on Earth. Two of the best slot canyon hikes in all of the Americas are here, the Paria River canyon and Buckskin Gulch, and Zion Narrows. We will hike through both of these canyons on this trip. Then we will also visit a relatively new discovery, in the area now called Coyote Buttes. The location was first publicized in Germany, in magazine articles and a movie ('Faszination Natur' by Gogol Lobmayr, 1995), and then was visited only by a small number of Europeans, becoming widely known just in the last few years. It has since appeared in publicity ads, movies and articles because of only one of its many incredible rock formations come to be known as "The Wave". This is the sculpted sandstone rock that, from the right angle, looks for all the world like an ocean breaker about to curl and break. These are wet hikes (in and out of water) so bring old tennis shoes and shorts for hiking in. The highlight, Buckskin Canyon/Paria is best viewed as an overnight campout but is also possible (for non campers) as two separate day hikes. Provided: transit, rental cars, airfare, lodging, some meals. Dates 6/11-18 Cost \$985



6/28 DEBAY AND JOHNSON SLOUGH

This is a new bird reserve purchased by the Cascade Conservancy to provide a resting place for Trumpeter Swans, Tundra Swans and other migratory birds. There are actually managed grain fields on the reserve to provide forage for the transitory bird populations. We will be visiting this new reserve both "by land and by sea". Actually it is fresh water from the Skagit River that bounds the north side of the reserve but you get the idea. The south boundary access is off of Francis Road just west of Sedro Woolley. There are several view points on this south side which we will visit first. After this we will launch into the Skagit and explore the north shore of the reserve. This is a tame section of river so anyone that wishes to and has some river experience can bring along a kayak or canoe to paddle or if you would prefer a ride there will be a raft for the rest of us. Bring cameras and binoculars and bird identification books (or bring along your favorite Audubon Society member) to identify the birds. Dry bags will be available for extra gear and the cameras. The best shoes for this are either wet suit booties or river sandals for getting in and out of the boats. Provided: transit, maps, raft. Date Sunday 6/28 Cost \$73



7/12 CRYSTAL MT. HIKE & BRUNCH

See the world at its peak! Crystal Mountain is offering food service in their newly remodeled mountaintop restaurant once again after a five year hiatus. Spend the afternoon hiking the peaks and ridges of the Crystal Mt. resort area. The morning chair ride will carry us from the 4,000' parking lot to the top of 7,000' Crystal Peak. From there we will hike to other peaks with names like Silver Queen, The Throne, Silver King, and Northway Peak. Traversing the ridge line between peaks provides fabulous vistas of Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Stewart, and others. Trails access mountain lakes and bowls like: Snorting Elk Bowl, Morning Glory Bowl, and Silver Basin. Rock outcroppings rise from the ridge rib, cliffs plummet from lofty altitudes to the valley floor, bleached gnarled trees resist gravity on windswept ledges. This area is classic high altitude mountain terrain similar in character to the Chinook Pass area. After a morning of hiking south toward Silver King we will return to the Summit Lodge for lunch. There we will dine behind large picture windows with the best view of Mt. Rainier in the state as entertainment. Following lunch we can hike the other way toward Spook Hill, Morning Glory Meadows and Northway. The chair will carry us to the top and back down saving 3,000' of climbing, or we can hike back down. Hiking distance will be as near or far as you want to go. Provided: transit, brunch, lift pass. Date Sunday 7/12 Cost \$73

7/18-23 OREGON CAVES & CALIFORNIA REDWOODS

It's like following Alice in wonderland and the chatty watch carrying bunny rabbit down a rabbit hole into a world of fantasy, taking the Ranger guided tour below ground into these marble caves. This is almost exactly how this cave was found back in 1874 when Elijah Davidson watched his dog disappear into an unseen gap in the mountainside. Hearing his companions agonizing howls, he dove into the void, creeping deeper and deeper until his supply of matches burned out. He then turned and followed the River Styx back to daylight where his limping dog was waiting for him (pretty smart pet). These caves were dubbed "The Marble halls of Oregon" by the celebrated poet Joaquin Miller. Geologists estimate the cave's bedrock, originally limestone, likely formed around 240 million years ago, before being buried underneath thick lava and mud formations. Pressure and heat transformed the limestone into marble. Then over the last one to two million years, water has been the cave's patient architect, carving out hollow passages and building up striking formations. All of this sculpted out of marble. Our second adventure entering a coastal redwood forest has been likened to entering a green version of the great cathedrals of ancient Europe, but no man made cathedral I know of can top 30 stories in height nor compare to the color and flamboyance of the rhododendrons, ferns, creeping oxalis, and mosses of the forest floor. One of the trails we will be hiking here is Redwood Creek which is a journey like no other through a forest of giant ferns, dogwoods, alders, and willow. If we get all the way to the Tall Trees Grove we will see three of the six tallest trees in the world. Provided: transit, rental cars, airfare, lodging. Dates 7/18-23 Cost \$857



7/31-8/2 VANCOUVER GARDENS TOUR

We will be strolling through some of the "emeralds" of this urban center on our trip. Vancouver, in keeping with its British heritage, has perhaps the highest concentration of formal and botanical gardens of any city in north America. Queen Elizabeth Park is the second most visited park in the city and holds within its perimeter some of the most beautiful public gardens anywhere. The seasonally changed plantings and strategically placed ornamental trees and shrubs make this park a real gem. Historically the summit of this park was a basalt quarry and true to its heritage one of its favorites corners is the quarry garden. In addition to this park are over a dozen others including The Van Dusen and UBC Botanical Gardens, the award winning Sun YatSen Chinese Garden, the Arbutus Gardens, and the meditative Nitobe Memorial Gardens. All of this is in addition to the most visited park in Vancouver. Stanley Park with its forest trails, waterfront beaches, inland lakes and water features, and northwest coast Indian totems, makes this park a quiet escape from this bustling city. Too often this town is just an obstacle to our travels north. Come and linger with us in our sister city across the border. Provided: transit, lodging. Dates 7/31-8/2 Cost \$248



MAIL THE FORM BELOW WITH YOUR 25% DEPOSIT

Summer 2009

To: Outing Services; 13534 35th Ave NE; Seattle, WA 9812527

Name: _____ Trip Title: _____ Enclosed \$: _____

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