

Snorkeling with Whale Sharks in Cenderawasih Bay

EXPLORE SPECTACULAR CORAL REEFS
FROM A LIVEBOARD BOAT IN WEST PAPUA



TRIP DATES

2026

July 7-17, 2026

July 21-31, 2026

2027

July 6-16, 2027

2028

July 4-14, 2028

July 17-27, 2028



Snorkeling with Whale Sharks in Cenderawasih Bay

With pristine reefs, white-sand beaches, and dramatic karst cliffs, Cenderawasih Bay in West Papua is stunning. Set in the heart of the Coral Triangle, Cenderawasih is also a biodiversity hotspot renowned for its endemic reef fish and corals. Aboard our 100-foot liveaboard schooner, we'll explore its hidden gems—with a bonus of two days of snorkeling and swimming with whale sharks at a special location that puts us in close proximity with these majestic creatures. It's one of the most thrilling wildlife encounters on the planet! We'll also visit villages and take island walks to look for extraordinary birdlife, including the bird-of-paradise ("cenderawasih" in Indonesian), for whom this bay is named. This is a phenomenal natural history adventure!

Itinerary

Please be aware that this itinerary is designed to be flexible. Although we will visit all the places listed on the itinerary, we rarely follow the schedule as described exactly due to weather, tides, preferences of trip members, and other factors. Come prepared to be flexible!

DAY 1 EMBARK / SNORKEL KALILEMON REEF

We embark on the traditional Indonesian schooner that will be our home for the next 11 days. Coffee and breakfast are served as we begin our expedition. During our afternoon snorkel on Kalilemon Reef, near the village of Kwatisore, be sure to look for giant clams and the recently-discovered endemic Cenderawasih longnose butterfly fish, with its bright yellow body and featherlike dorsal fins. Dinner on board this evening is followed by a presentation on whale sharks—fascinating creatures the size of a school bus that are one of only three known filter-feeding shark species. The pattern of their pale, yellowish spots and stripes is unique to each individual, allowing researchers to identify individuals from photos...BLD

Sailing Details: 5 hours, 32 nautical miles

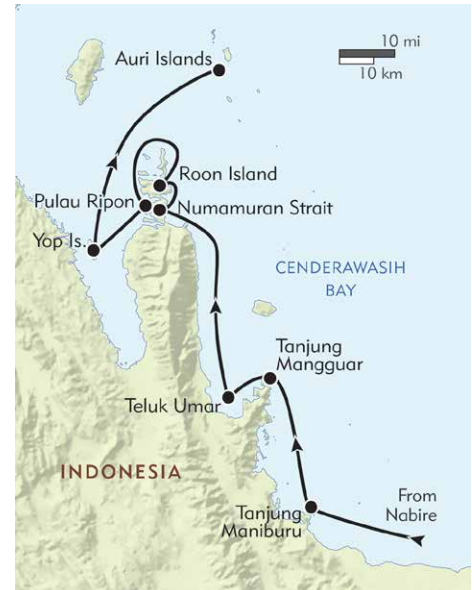
DAYS 2-3 SWIM WITH WHALE SHARKS!

Local fishermen have been using bagans (lift-net fishing platforms) here for several decades, and the whale sharks have learned to take advantage of them, sucking small baitfish from the nets. Believing the sharks bring good luck, fishermen encourage this association by throwing out a handful of fish now and again. Prime feeding times are in the morning and before dusk, and we should have the opportunity to snorkel in close proximity with the largest fish in the ocean as they circle, looking for a meal. On Day 3, we have another opportunity to spend time in the water with the whale sharks; we can also climb onto the bagan for a unique perspective and photo opportunities. We visit a village, meet residents, and discover the local culture on the afternoon of Day 3...BLD

Sailing Details: 30 minutes relocation each day

DAY 4 BIRDS OF PARADISE / BIRD'S HEAD SEASCAPE / TANJUNG KOROROWAI

A pre-dawn dinghy ride takes us deep into the bay near Tanjung Kororowai. As the jungle begins to come to life, we take a short but rugged hike through mangrove roots to the crest of a hill to watch and listen for the exquisite lesser bird of paradise. This is the beginning of mating season, so we'll be on the lookout for males with their flamboyant plumage. Back on board we'll have breakfast and set sail north towards the crystalline waters of Tanjung Mangguar (also known as "Bird's Head Seascape"), an epicentre of marine biodiversity. This area is home to more than 70 endemic species of reef fish, corals, and crustaceans, leading scientists to call it a "cauldron of evolution" and a "species factory." We'll see divaricate soft coral with its delicate branches, hawksbill turtles, manta rays, and feather stars. The islands also boast the most significant nesting beaches for Pacific leatherbacks, the world's largest and fastest-swimming turtle. Interesting geology topside and incredible topography beneath the surface make for fascinating snorkeling near the offshore rocks on



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 11 days
Arrive: Nabire, Indonesia
Depart: Nabire, Indonesia
Lodging: 10 nights aboard Indonesian schooner
Meals: All meals included (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity: Small Boat and Yacht Cruising, Snorkeling, Wildlife and Natural History
Trip Level: 1 2 ③ 4 5 6
Snorkeling 4-6 hours most days, 3-4 hours cruising each day, occasional kayaking, paddleboarding, and short moderate hikes

HIGHLIGHTS

- Swim with massive whale sharks—the Earth's largest fish!
- Explore one of the most biologically diverse and remote areas on the planet
- World-class snorkeling, pristine coral reefs, WWII history, spectacular stargazing
- Travel aboard a double-masted Indonesian schooner, anchoring in isolated coves

Itinerary

the northeastern point of Tanjung Mangguar before we tuck into the serene bay in front of Yapenyuar village for our overnight anchorage...BLD

Sailing Details: 3-3.5 hours, 21 nautical miles

DAY 5 GIANT CLAMS OF UMAR BAY / YAPENYUAR VILLAGE VISIT

Today we snorkel with 100-year-old giant clams on a horseshoe-shaped reef inside Umar Bay. This species, capable of reaching four feet in length and weighing over 500 pounds, has sometimes been referred to as the “man-eating” clam. But don’t worry—that reputation is completely undeserved (their main foods are algae and plankton). We’ll also look for brightly colored orange-and-white false clown anemonefish before setting off on a birding walk in search of hornbills, kingfishers, parrots, and eagles, all common here. Back on shore, villagers welcome us to their homes; the local children are eager to interact and practice their English...BLD

DAY 6 PAPUA AND ROON ISLAND / PADDLEBOARDING IN SEARCH OF DUGONGS

A morning sail takes us to brilliantly colored hard corals in the shallow Numamuran Strait, between Papua and Roon Island. The jungle descends right into the reefs here, and the snorkelling is stunning—look for Acropora branching corals, large boulder coral colonies, and cushion stars. We paddleboard around the picturesque anchorage, keeping our eyes peeled for the dugongs that graze on underwater grasses. Once hunted for their meat, oil, and teeth, these sea mammals are related to manatees and may have been the inspiration for ancient seafarers’ tales of mermaids...BLD

Sailing Details: 4-5 hours, 29 nautical miles

DAY 7 SNORKEL ABOVE WWII WRECKS / NUMAMURAN STRAIT

We begin the day snorkelling above a Japanese Zero fighter plane resting in just 30 feet of water. Downed during WWII and coming to rest on a hard coral reef near the island of Pulau Rippon, this relic of war is now home to colorful fish. Hawksbill and green turtles, barracuda, and surgeonfish (think of Dory, from Finding Nemo) all live in the area. Surgeonfish keep reefs healthy by eating the algae that grow here, preventing them from choking the coral. In

the afternoon we stop at the beach where a babbling stream runs down from the forest into the ocean. The reef in front of the beach is lovely, with sea fans, blue sea stars, huge barrel sponges, an amazing array of hard and soft corals, and bright sea whips on reef “islands” above a white sand bottom...BLD

DAY 8 YOP ISLAND DRIFT SNORKEL

We anchor near Yop Island and travel by dinghy into Korio Bay, a narrow, one-mile-deep channel fringed with forest. The bird and plant life here are spectacular. Be sure to have your binoculars with you as we search for the dramatic Blyth’s hornbill and eclectus parrots, which are easy to spot because of their bright plumage (females are red; males are green with “candy corn” yellow beaks). We return to the boat for lunch, followed by an afternoon snorkel with endemic fish such as the colorful—and recently discovered—Nursalim flasher wrasse and the brilliant blue Giti’s demoiselle...BLD

Sailing Details: 2 hours

DAYS 9-10 PADDLEBOARDING IN THE AURI ISLANDS / SNORKELING ABOVE WWII WRECKS

Auri’s spectacular karst islands rise above the water’s surface like the backs of gigantic green sea monsters. Underwater, the scenery is just as incredible, with some of Indonesia’s most pristine coral reefs and a high concentration of endemic fish—plus a trio of American WWII fighter jets sunk in the shallows. Watch for elegant blacktip reef sharks and odd looking broadclub cuttlefish. Our days are filled with jaw-dropping beauty as we explore crystal-clear waters and enjoy lunchtime beach barbecues along white sandy shores beneath palm trees. Finish your days with cocktails on the beach as the setting sun turns the Cenderawasih sky to fire. We’ll be snorkelling and paddleboarding in paradise!...BLD

Sailing Details: 3 hours each day

DAY 11 FAREWELL TO PARADISE / DEPART

Having sailed overnight from Auri, we reach Nabire this morning and disembark. The crew will take your checked luggage to the airport. After breakfast, transfer to the airport for departure...B

Sailing Details: about 11 hours, 77 nautical miles

Pricing

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2026

\$7,595 (9-10 members)

\$8,495 (7-8 members)

\$9,495 (5-6 members)

Charter Price: \$65,995-\$68,995

Single supplement: \$2,345

Note: There is limited single cabin availability.

Prices are per person, valid through 2027

\$7,895 (9-10 members)

\$8,795 (7-8 members)

\$9,695 (5-6 members)

Charter Price: \$67,995-\$70,995

Single supplement: \$2,375

Note: There is limited single cabin availability.

Please contact us for future years' pricing

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations aboard the yacht
- Airport transfer on the final day of the trip only
- All meals included as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- PFDs (life jackets), and boat safety gear

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare to/from the trip, internal flights, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, optional gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule or other factors, airport taxes, expenses such as immunizations (if any), emergency medical evacuation insurance (required), and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation	\$600
150 days prior to departure:	50% of trip cost
90 days prior to departure	Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee:	\$600 per person
91-150 days prior to departure:	50% of trip cost
90 days or less:	100% of trip cost

*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures. Private charters come with stricter policies, call for details.

MANDATORY EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSURANCE

Please note: Insurance for emergency medical evacuation is required for this trip. Wilderness Travel offers a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan through Travelex Insurance that meets this requirement. For more details, visit our website: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance. Alternatively, you can purchase a different policy on your own, as long as it includes emergency medical evacuation coverage of at least \$250,000 per person. You can compare various options at www.insuremytrip.com.

Extend Your Adventure

To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our webpage and click on "Extend Your Trip": www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/indonesia/cenderawasih-whalesharks-snorkeling-biodiversity-coral-reefs/extensions



BALI EXTENSION

Sculpted by dense tropical forests and dramatic coastlines famous for their waves, Bali shelters a unique combination of natural beauty and vibrant culture. This extension to the "land of the gods" whisks you to the lush artist's haven of Ubud, where you'll walk amid cascading rice terraces and sample Balinese specialties. Your guide will introduce you to local artisans and farmers and you'll have the opportunity to witness ceremony dances and visit tranquil temples. For those looking for an extra thrill, you have the option to rush down the white waters on a rafting excursion. Overnights are in lovely atmospheric hotels that blend into the environment. This extension can be taken either before or after your main trip.

5 days. From \$1,895.

YOGYAKARTA EXTENSION

Yogyakarta is situated almost exactly halfway along the length of Java, in an area considered by the Javanese to be the heartland of the country. It's home to some of the island's most spectacular scenery and oldest traditions. On this extension, you'll be immersed in the cultural capital of Java, with many influences from Hindu and Buddhist traditions to Dutch colonial designs. Enjoy a sunrise visit to the world's largest Buddhist monument, take a music lesson or batik dyeing class, and you even have the option for a Jeep excursion. This extension can be taken either before or after your main trip.

5 days. From \$1,995.



Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Nabire Airport
Nabire, Indonesia

Suggested Airport: Nabire Airport, Indonesia (NBX)
Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, before 8:00 am

We HIGHLY recommend arriving in Nabire one day prior to Day 1 of the trip. For extra nights in Nabire, we recommend booking the Hotel Grand Papua Nabire. Wilderness Travel can book these nights for you, including your transfers to/from the hotel. Please see your Extra Services Request Form for more information.

Please note that Nabire has very little tourism infrastructure, so there are not many pre-trip hotel options. Hotels are basic and not up to high Western standards.

On Day 1 of the trip you will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of the Hotel Grand Papua Nabire at 9:00 am for your group transfer to the boat.

DEPARTURE

Nabire Airport
Nabire, Indonesia

Suggested Airport: Nabire Airport, Indonesia (NBX)
Suggested Date & Time: Day 11, anytime

On Day 11, the boat will be anchored near Nabire Airport and you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Indonesia.

While it is possible to fly to Nabire from various locations in Indonesia, such as Bali, we suggest Jakarta as it has the most efficient flight routes.

You will need to book international flights from your original destination to/from Jakarta or Bali on a larger international carrier, and then book separate flights to/from Nabire on a smaller regional carrier. For these smaller regional flights to/from Nabire, we recommend booking through Wings Abadi Air, which partners with Lion Air (www.lionair.co.id/en) and Batik Air (www.malindoair.com). Please note that most flights to/from Nabire will involve a separate connection through another Indonesia city, such as Jayapura (DJJ), Biak (BIK), Ambon (AMQ), or Timika (TIM).

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

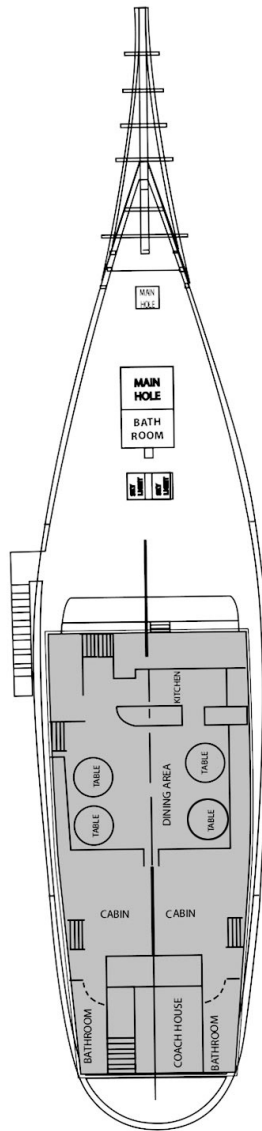
Lodging



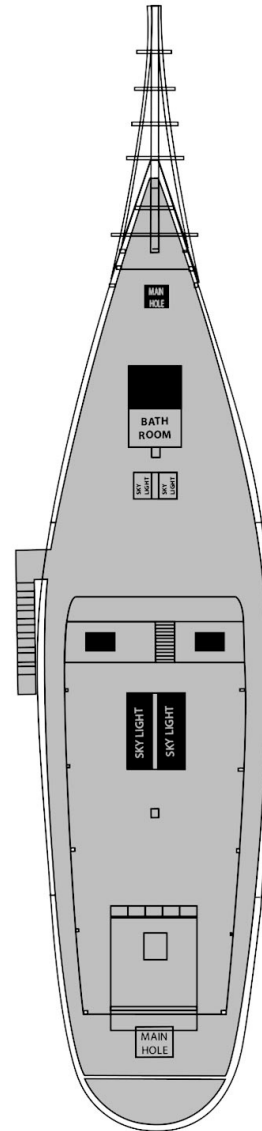
TRADITIONAL INDONESIAN SCHOONER

Our vessel is a double-masted traditional Indonesian sailboat that offers the unique opportunity to explore the incredibly remote, unique, and mystical Raja Ampat archipelago. The boat was built in Sulawesi in 2000 out of Indonesian hardwoods and is 100 feet long with a 21-foot beam. While not luxurious, she is comfortable, well maintained. There are six double cabins with en suite bathrooms, individually controlled air-conditioning, and electricity 24 hours a day. The boat is very sturdy and stable, whether still or under motor. The boat's crew of seven is attentive, experienced, and helpful, and many have worked on the boat for years. Note: There are four cabins below deck, and two cabins on the main deck (where the dining room and common areas are located). Please note that the cabins below deck require descending steep stairs/ladders, and that the cabins above deck are slightly smaller.

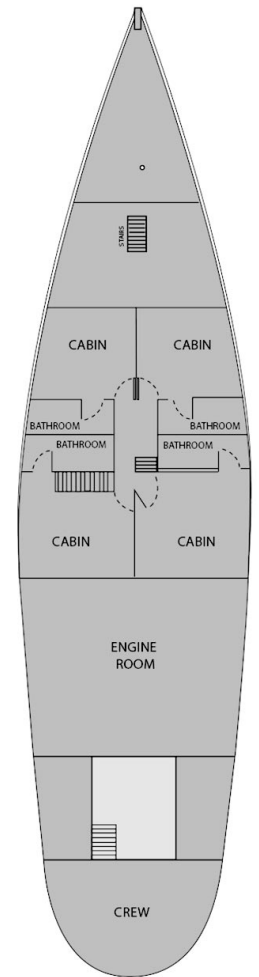
To see more photos, please visit our *Snorkeling Expedition to Cenderawasih Bay* webpage and click on the "Lodging" tab.



MAIN DECK (INTERIOR)



VIEW FROM ABOVE



LOWER DECK

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/indonesia/cenderawasih-whalesharks-snorkeling-biodiversity-coral-reefs



BOB BRUNSKILL

Bob Brunskill is an Englishman with two decades of experience planning and executing diving and snorkeling excursions in Indonesia. He left the United Kingdom in 2003 in search of adventure, which led him to Thailand, where he gained his diving certification, and later to Indonesia. Nineteen years and more than 10,000 dives later, he continues to pursue his passion to explore and introduce travelers to the underwater haven of this spectacular corner of the world. “I have been working in Raja Ampat for the last two decades and it continues to surprise me,” he says. “Never the same twice, mother nature always amazes me, and it is a privilege to share this special experience with guests.” He is fluent in Indonesian and has a deep appreciation for the people and culture in Papua and Indonesia. Bob has played a major role in the refurbishment of the boat we use in Raja Ampat, and when he’s not working on the boat and leading trips, he enjoys spending time with his kids.



ANDREA DUGGAN

Born and raised in Southampton, England, Andrea Duggan has been a passionate world traveler and scuba diving instructor since 1998, when she left the UK for Southeast Asia and fell in love with Asia Pacific marine life. It was during her first trip to Indonesia’s Komodo National Park that she knew she wanted to work underwater in this beautiful country. This is also where she found her passion for freediving, and since then, she has planned and led trips throughout the entire Indonesian archipelago. Andrea has traveled to every continent and is fluent in both Spanish and Indonesian. She is passionate about the ocean and loves to share her knowledge and enthusiasm about Indonesia’s biodiversity. When not guiding, Andrea enjoys practicing and teaching yoga and sharing her knowledge of Ayurvedic and healing diets as a nutrition coach. “Indonesia is a country that never ceases to amaze me. There is always something new to discover whether it is above or below the water.”

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a Level 3 (Moderate) according to our trip grading system.

Average Day

- 4-6 hours snorkeling
- 3-4 hours sailing
- Occasional kayaking, paddleboarding, and short-moderate hikes

How Tough is This Trip?

You need to be comfortable snorkeling in a variety of conditions, including drift snorkels and occasionally against strong currents. While snorkeling is usually at your own pace, it is sometimes necessary to be able to keep up with the group.

WEATHER

Cenderawasih Bay is very close to the equator and has a warm, tropical climate with year-round temperatures in the high 80s°F and occasional rain showers.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Pacific Manager or email us at pacific@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

TOUCAN CLUB

We're proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business! The Wilderness Travel Toucan Club was established to reward our travelers for their loyalty. For details, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Climate in Nabire												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Air Temp High/Low	88/77	88/77	88/77	88/77	88/77	87/76	87/76	87/76	87/86	88/77	88/77	88/77
Water Temperature	85°F	85°F	85°F	85°F	85°F	84°F	84°F	84°F	84°F	85°F	86°F	86°F
Monthly Rainfall	10 in	11 in	11 in	10 in	9 in	9 in	9 in	9 in	8 in	7 in	7 in	8 in

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel 32oz stainless steel insulated water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$140 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$150 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



T-SHIRT FRONT



T-SHIRT BACK



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST;
INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2025, 12-time winner

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Condé Nast Traveler*, 2025, 5-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

Revised: May 14, 2026 4:04 PM