



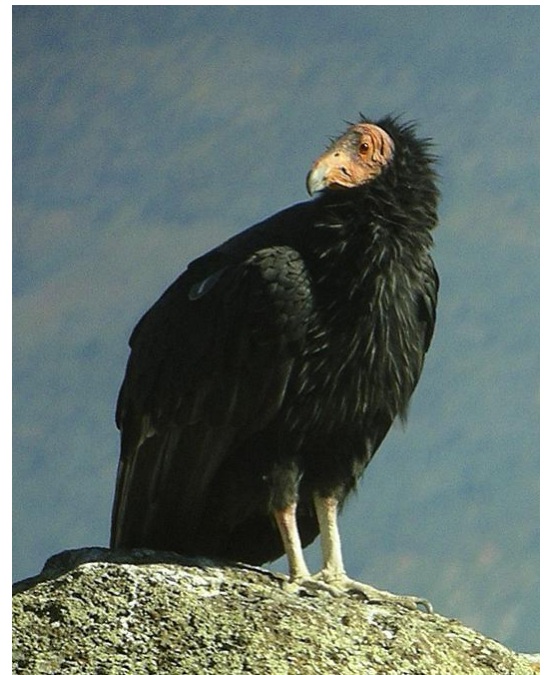
Canyon Adventure in Condor Country

Exploring Special Places of Utah and Arizona's Four Corners Region

A Special Tour by the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo (NRCP)

SEPTEMBER 23-October 1, 2014

Join raptor expert and NRCP Raptor Center Director, Diana Miller for a great opportunity to explore the Four Corners region, in search of wild California Condors, raptors, and other canyon-country wildlife. In this second year of this exclusive tour, we've expanded to a full week and have added the opportunity to witness Condor researchers release birds at Vermilion Cliffs National Monument!



On this unique adventure in some of the Four Corners' spectacular parks and monuments, we focus on understanding the ecology and current status of the California Condor population. We also experience fantastic geology, a vast expanse of geography, lush forests, open sagebrush-clad valleys and canyons with the colors of rainbows. We should see signature Great Basin bird species such as Pinyon Jays, Juniper Titmice, and Golden Eagles, as well as migrating songbirds.

In addition to seeing THE grandest canyon of them all from the condor-frequented South Rim of Grand Canyon, we'll also spend time in Zion National Park, where condors have found a second stronghold. We meet biologists working for the California Condor Recovery program, and attend a public event to witness California Condors being released into the wild at the Vermilion Cliffs site.



The tour starts in Flagstaff, Arizona, which has a small airport served by US Airways, or for those that prefer, regular shuttle service from the Phoenix Airport is also available. Your guides and our host from the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo meet the group here, and after a welcome night and Condor Recovery Presentation in Flagstaff, we explore Condor Country in detail. The tour includes two nights at the South Rim and time to explore Grand Canyon National Park. From Page, we visit the Vermilion Cliffs Condor Viewing Area of the Bureau of Land Management, enjoy a raft trip down the Colorado River on a quiet stretch below the Glen Canyon Dam, and hike with a Navajo guide in scenic Antelope Canyon. From Springdale, we explore Zion National Park, where one vividly sees how the landscape provides excellent habitat for condors and other raptors.



We have designed the tour to provide a great opportunity to view California Condors and other birds and wildlife – in the wild. By going to three areas used by condors at different seasons, we should maximize our chances of finding them. If their typical pattern of use holds true, we should be able to see condors flying, preening, bathing, interacting, and resting. Spectacular!

Don't miss this premium, small group guided tour and know that your travel brings benefit to the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo, to help them accomplish their important mission to provide unique experiences in education, conservation and recreation that inspire responsible environmental decision making.

California Condors are among the rarest raptors in the world, today numbering about 320 birds, half of which occur in the wild. In 1982 the population was a mere 22 individuals. After work to bring numbers up in a totally captive population, release to the wild began, first in California in 1992. In December of 1996, Arizona had six young captive-bred condors released into the wild at the Vermilion Cliffs, not far from the Grand Canyon. Subsequent releases have occurred each year following the initial release in a recovery program coordinated with federal land agencies and The Peregrine Fund. While back from the brink, California Condors are still an Endangered Species and they still face ongoing challenges, particularly that of lead poisoning. Over 70 condors soar over northern Arizona and southern Utah, and this population now includes wild-born individuals from active nest caves in the Grand Canyon and the Vermilion Cliffs.



ITINERARY

Tues., Sept. 23 Arrivals in Flagstaff

Plan to arrive in Flagstaff, Arizona in time for a welcome dinner at 6:00PM, followed by a presentation by Chris Parish of the Condor Recovery team. Those arriving by 2PM can enjoy a visit to the fabulous Museum of Northern Arizona where exhibits provide excellent background to our tour. Colorful aspen trees should be highlighting the San Francisco Peaks, the mountain range that inspired C. Hart Merriam to describe the Life Zone habitat concept explaining biodiversity changes with elevation for mountains of the West. After dinner, enjoy an overview of the week ahead and a chance to learn about the California Condor recovery effort from the experts in detail.

Accommodations in Flagstaff (D)

Wed., Sept. 24 and Thurs. Sept. 25 South Rim of the Grand Canyon

Wednesday morning we head to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, passing through some magnificent terrain of the Navajo Reservation to get there. Enjoy a stop at an authentic Trading Post along the way, and have lunch in view of THE Canyon.



That afternoon and during the following day, we witness the Grand Canyon and its grandeur, while watching for condors from various viewpoints along the rim. We plan to walk a trail near historic El Tovar Hotel from which we have a good chance to see

California Condors returning to roost sites in the later afternoon. The vivid panorama reveals a fantastic geologic history, with long, distant views to the North Rim. Weathering and erosion have created fantastic buttes and mesas within the canyon, and water and wind have sculptured the canyon walls. Mule Deer, Wild Turkey, Juniper Titmouse and Pygmy Nuthatches may be seen. Those that wish to hike can enjoy a half day free to hike to Grandview or another vista point.

Enjoy dinner and if the weather is clear, fabulous views of the night sky far away from city lights. *Accommodations at the South Rim of Grand Canyon (B,L,D first night, 2nd night at leisure)*



Fri., Sept. 26 South Rim Sunrise / Antelope Canyon / Page

After breakfast, we head over to Page, Arizona. The route lets us pass by additional viewpoints of Grand Canyon to take in more jaw-dropping vistas. We aim to get to Page to meet local Navajo guides mid-day, for a hike in one of the most photographed slot canyons of the West, Upper Antelope Canyon. We time it for good lighting within the narrow slot canyon with time for photography. Page is located on Lake Powell and is also close to areas used by the Condors. If there is an active nest site or news that condors are using roosts by one of the bridges, we make an afternoon drive out to try to spot them.

Accommodations in Page (B,L,D)



Sat. Sept. 27 California Condor Release Event!

The Condor Recovery Effort hosts a public release each fall, and this year we intend to be there! Experts and participants gather at the Vermilion Cliffs viewing site, less than an hour's drive from Page. We will observe the release from a viewing area where spotting scopes will be set up and experts will be available to answer questions. This will be the 19th annual public release of condors in Arizona since the condor recovery program began in 1996. Condors are hatched and reared in captivity at The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho, and transported to Arizona for release to the wild. Condors also come to the release site from the Oregon Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo, and San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

Accommodations in Page (B,L,D)

Sun., Sept. 28 Colorado River Raft Adventure / On to Zion National Park



Before continuing on to Zion National Park, it's time to see the landscape from a different angle! To do this, we get on the Colorado River just below the Glen Canyon



Dam. Local boatmen know California Condors well, for both adults and juveniles frequent the river corridor. They are not present at all times, but we do have a chance of seeing them and we keep our eyes to the sky. We may also encounter Peregrine Falcons, Osprey and Golden Eagles. And we are certain to find some grand scenery and hints of past cultures in some impressive petroglyph panels along the way.



Then we head to Zion National Park, where at this time of year we have our best chances to find and observe wild California Condors, who summer in a remote part of the park near Kolob Reservoir.

Today we drive as far as Springdale, passing through Kanab, and entering Zion from the East, by way of scenic Checkerboard Mesa. It is a scenic, two and a half hour drive on which we may see Bighorn Sheep, great lighting on the rock monoliths, or interesting birds such as Pinyon Jays en route. Our destination is the town of Springdale, and once here, we settle in and enjoy dinner together. Springdale sits in a dramatic setting and is the western gateway community for Zion National Park.

Accommodations in Springdale (B,L,D)



Mon. Sept. 29 Grafton Ghost Town / Kolob Reservoir / Zion National Park



This morning begins with a great time birding and learning a bit of local history at the ghost town of Grafton, just outside Zion National Park. Grafton is an historic site, located along the river, and it is a great spot to pick up sightings of some Southwestern bird species, such as Say's Phoebes, Vermilion Flycatchers and possibly Greater Roadrunners. As Zion is a blending area, more northern species such as Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers enjoy the historic orchard, and often there is an agile Cooper's Hawk roosting in lush cottonwood trees. Grand views back on Zion highlight our scenic drive.

We have the rest of the day to spend (hopefully!) with California Condors, focusing on seeing a group of birds that are part of the restored population. This group summers in the high country of Zion National Park, near adjacent Kolob Reservoir. For a number of years they have been quite faithful to this site, and a good deal of research has been conducted here. If they are still using this area in late September we have good opportunity. If they have moved off to winter terrain, we can still see the areas they use and better understand an area vital to recovery as the population expands. We drive through an uncrowded, wild and scenic area of Zion National Park to get to the site, learning geology and soaking in vistas along the way.





The drive up to the site is spectacular, providing long views of the colorful rock monoliths so famous in Zion. We will network with members of the condor research team to know the best hours of the day to be on either side of a small, dramatic canyon where the birds like to rest and, in the evening, to roost. This will be the main focus of our day, but we also have time to stop for photography, for observing other birds and wildlife, and to learn about the geology of the region. Expect a great day in and around Zion!

We return to Springdale at the end of our field day, and dinner is at your leisure at a great variety of local restaurants nearby.

Accommodations in Springdale (B,L)

Tues., Sept. 30 Zion National Park Main Canyon / Return to Flagstaff

This morning we park our vehicles at the park’s Visitor’s Center, and take the national park shuttle into the main Canyon of Zion, to explore the Big Bend area across from Weeping Wall, where condors are frequently sighted. If they are there a park ranger is often at the site to describe their use of the area – what an experience, to stand under massive rock walls, in condor terrain!

This afternoon, we have a half-day drive back to Flagstaff. It is scenic the entire route, and once back, we celebrate our tour with a festive farewell dinner at a favorite local restaurant.
Accommodations in Flagstaff (B,L,D)



Wed., Oct. 1 Departures

You may depart anytime convenient today via air, shuttle, train, bus or your car parked at the hotel. If you wish to see more of the Southwest while here, Naturalist Journeys can help with you suggestions.

REGISTRATION



Registration and payment for this journey will be handled by The Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo, working in partnership with a small eco-travel company based in Arizona, Naturalist Journeys, LLC.

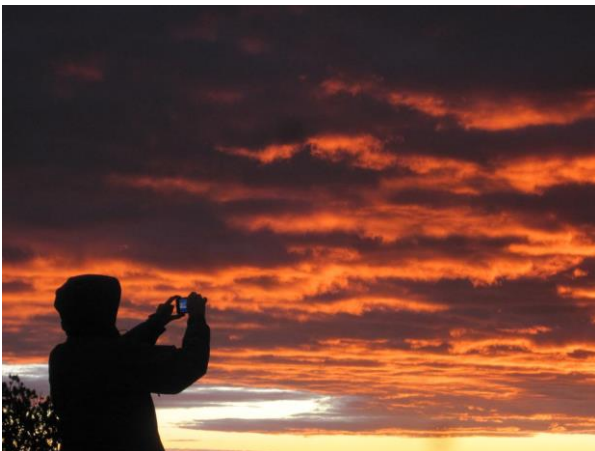
Registration will be subject to Naturalist Journeys, LLC terms and conditions, which are outlined on the registration form. To sign up for the tour, please send a donation to NRCP for at least \$200 per person, and mail this with your completed NRCP/Naturalist Journeys tour registration form to the Raptor Center. Once confirmed, your tour registration, invoice and final payment will then be handled by Naturalist Journeys, LLC.



All registrations will be handled through the Nature and Raptor Center, please contact:

John Gallagher

The Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo
5200 Nature Center Rd
Pueblo, CO 81003
(719) 549-2458



Once registration is confirmed, additional payment can be made by check or credit card and instructions for this will be given with your tour confirmation.

We encourage you to act quickly and reserve your space today! There are no other tours like this out there – a small guided group, experts from the Condor Recovery team sharing expertise, time at two major national parks, and scenic areas in between. Space for this special tour is limited, contact us today!

About The Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo

The Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo is celebrating 35 years of connecting people with nature. The Audubon River Trails Nature Center was founded in 1979 by the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society to preserve an area where the community could observe, explore, and enjoy nature. In 1981 wildlife rehabilitation was added to the mission with the founding of the Raptor Center. In 1983 The Greenway and Nature Center of Pueblo was incorporated in the state of Colorado as a Nonprofit Corporation and received 501 (c)(3) tax - exempt status. In 2008 the name of the organization was changed to Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo to better reflect the current mission. Over the thirty – five years of the Nature Center’s operation, there have been over four million visitors to the site along the Arkansas River with over 200,000 youth participating in environmental education programs. Over 5,000 raptors have been cared for from 46 counties in Colorado and several other states including Texas, New Mexico, California, Oregon, Oklahoma, Utah, and Kansas.

COST OF THE JOURNEY

Cost of the journey is \$2490.00* per person for a group of 8 or more persons, \$2690 for 6-7 persons. Pricing is based on double occupancy, from Flagstaff, Arizona. Your tour price includes a \$200 donation to NRCP, paid to NRCP to initiate tour registration. It also includes a donation to the organization sponsoring Condor Recovery efforts.

*To insure the success of our tour and to reach our numbers quickly so all can make travel plans, through

June 15 there is a SPECIAL discount of \$100 per person, double occupancy, for members of the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo (NRCP) and the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society (AVAS). This discount is for NRCP or AVAS members and those persons traveling with a current member



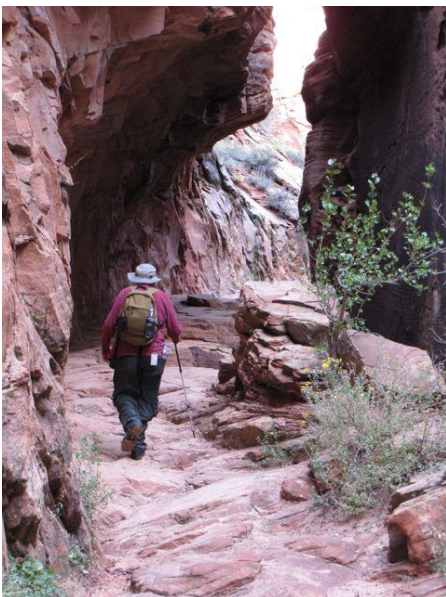
The tour cost includes: accommodations for 7 nights, most meals as specified in the itinerary

(B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner), airport welcome and transfers in Flagstaff (or transport to the train or Phoenix shuttle), land transportation during the journey, professional guide services, park and other entrance fees, and miscellaneous program expenses. A portion of the tour fee will benefit the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo.

Single supplement is \$595.00.

Cost does not include: round-trip airfare to and from Flagstaff, items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone, drinks from the bar, or gratuities for luggage handling or personal services. With fewer than 6 participants, a small-group surcharge (typically \$100-200 per participant) may apply, or we may request that you pick up the cost of a few additional dinners in lieu of this surcharge.

Group Size: Maximum of 12 and minimum of 6 participants.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

The airport for this journey is Flagstaff Pulliam Airport (FLG), served from Phoenix by US Airways. Shuttle service is also available several times daily from Phoenix, and AMTRAK provides train service, and there is bus service. Participants may also drive, and park vehicles at our hotel. Plan on arriving in Flagstaff no later than 5:00 PM on Sept. 23 (2PM if you wish to see the Museum) and departing as needed for return flights, shuttles, etc. Oct. 1.

Naturalist Journeys, LLC is an equal opportunity service provider and committed to the goal of ensuring equal opportunity for all in employment and program delivery.

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Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo

www.natureandraptor.org

The Mission of the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo is to provide unique experiences in education, conservation and recreation that inspire responsible environmental decision making.